

You Can (Not) LOVE

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Summary: When Shinji runs away, he finds himself in the Underground. As he tries to find the way back, he will learn the values of friendship and love, and even learn that he can love himself. Maybe this time, he will find happiness.

1. 3-1

Evangelion****:** the popular series that's hard to write fanfiction on.**

Undertale****:** the popular series that's easy to write fanfiction on.**

****This fanfiction:** is going to be hard to write due to the high risk of OOCness. Seriously, even after watching the films and doing research, I can't get the ****_**Evangelion**_**** cast entirely right.**

* * *

><p>I have to go back.

Shinji kept thinking this even though his steps took him further and further away from Tokyo 3. He was currently walking down a nature trail in the country. He never gave his path any conscious thought; his feet just took him there while he secluded himself in his mind.

They're probably looking for me; wanting me to pilot the Eva again.

He had originally wandered around the city, but the noise became too much for him and he moved his wanderings to the country. The sounds of the birds and cicadas were preferable to people. Out here, he was alone.

"_I musn't run away"â€|so much for that._

Up ahead, he could see Mt. Ebott. It had never attracted his attention before, but seeing it on the horizon, Shinji felt a sudden twinge of dÃ©jÃ vu. He felt like he had walked down this path before, and something about the mountain called out to him. His curiosity piqued, he decided to go there.

There were stories about Mt. Ebott, like how children went missing and were never seen again. Old folklore said that they were spirited away by ghosts or demons, but that was all it was: folklore. Even though he had no reason to believe in them when there were Angels to worry about, the thought still lingered in Shinji's mind as he climbed the mountain.

His foot caught something and he found himself stumbling forward. He expected to fall flat on the ground, but he found himself tumbling downwards. Something struck his head and he fell unconscious.

* * *

><p>When Shinji woke up, he half expected to see an unfamiliar ceiling. Instead, he saw the stars and the moon high above him. He saw all this through a hole in a cavern. He had to have been out for a couple of hours if the moon was up now. He sat up and noticed that he was lying on a bed of yellow flowers. He also noticed a sharp pain on his head. He rubbed the sore spot and touched something wet: blood. He now worried that he was trapped in the cavern.<p>

He cursed his stupidity for leaving his phone behind. When he left, he didn't want to be bothered by phone calls from Misato, and now he was regretting his decision. Combined with the fact that no one knew where he was, Shinji knew that no one was coming to rescue him.

So I just wait until I die? Is there no other way out?

Shinji got to his feet and decided to look around. The moonlight offered little visibility, but further down, he thought he could see another ray of moonlight. He decided to walk towards it.

In the patch of moonlight was a single, yellow flower. It was bigger than the others, and it had a smiling face. Shinji did not know what to think when he saw it, and he certainly didn't know what to say when it spoke.

"Howdy!" The flower said. "I'm Flowey, Flowey the flower!"

Shinji stared at it in silence.

"Hmmâ€|you're new to the Underground, aren'tcha? Golly, you must be so confused!"

"Iâ€|I am." Shinji admitted.

"Someone ought to teach you how things work around here! I guess little old me will have to do. First, you see that heart in front of your chest?"

Shinji glanced down and gasped when he saw a glowing red heart

hovering in front of him. He didn't know how he had failed to notice this earlier. He lightly touched it and found it to be warm.

"That is your soul, the very culmination of your being." Flowey explained.

"My soul? But why is it out here?"

"Because that's how it works for humans, unlike monsters."

"M-monsters?"

"Now, your soul starts off weak, but it can grow strong if you get a lot of LV."

"LV?"

"LOVE, of course! You want LOVE, don't you?"

Shinji lowered his head. He did want love, butâ€¦

"Of course you do!" Flowey went on. "I'll share some with you!"

Little white pellets suddenly appeared around the flower.

"Around here, LOVE is shared through little white 'friendliness pellets'. Now, try to catch as many as you can!"

Before Shinji could question it, the pellets flew towards him. Out of instinct, he moved out of the way. Flowey narrowed his eyes at this action.

"Hey, why did you move?" He asked.

"S-sorry."

"Well, try again."

More pellets appeared and flew towards Shinji. This time, he allowed them to make contact with his heart. Pain suddenly overtook him and he dropped to his hands and knees. His chest ached and felt like it was about to burst. He looked at Flowey and saw that his cheerful smile had turned into a malicious grin.

"You idiot." Flowey said. "In this world, it's kill or be killed. Why would anyone pass up an opportunity like this?!"

Shinji gaped as a ring of pellets appeared and surrounded him. He was in too much pain to get up and run. Instead, he could only stare at Flowey disbelievingly.

"Why?" He asked.

"Die."

The flower laughed as the ring of pellets slowly closed in on Shinji.

Move! Move!

Out of nowhere, a hovering ring of fire appeared and closed in on the pellets. As soon as they had made contact, they both vanished. A fireball flew from the far end of the cavern and hit Flowey. He shrieked in pain and sunk into the earth. From the darkness, a lone figure stepped out.

She moved and looked like a human, yet she had white fur and a goat's head. She wore white and purple robes and had a worried look on her face. Shinji knew that she was the one who had saved him.

"What a terrible creature, torturing such a poor, innocent youth." She said. "Do not be afraid, my child. I am Toriel, caretaker of the Ruins."

"T-thank you." Shinji said. He tried to move again, only to be met with more pain.

"Here, let me help you."

Toriel approached Shinji and knelt in front of him. She reached out and lightly touched his soul. Though he flinched at first, he could feel a wave of soothing energy flow throughout his body. The pain melted away and he was able to stand up again.

"You are the first human to come here in a long time." Toriel said. "Come. I will guide you through the catacombs."

Toriel walked back into the darkness. Shinji hesitated. Yes, she had saved him from Flowey, but how did he know she wouldn't try to kill him, too? In the past minute, he had discovered that the old folklore of Mt. Ebott was true. There were actual demons—no, monsters, in this Underground.

And no one was ever seen again!

"Are you coming?" Toriel called out.

Shinji decided that following Toriel was better than standing around and waiting to die. He followed her and kept his guard up. At the first sign of danger, he would just run away.

That's all I'm good at anyways!

2. 3-2

**Evangelion**: doesn't leave much room for shenanigans.**

**Undertale**: has a lot of room for shenanigans.**

This fanfiction: will have shenanigans. Also, because it's my favorite word, I'll write it again: shenanigans.

* * *

><p>Shinji saw that Toriel had led him to some old ruins. Lit torches lined the walls, providing much needed light. Shinji looked at his

new guide and wondered where she was taking him. They entered a room with a closed door and several switches on the floor.<p>

"Welcome to your new home, innocent one." Toriel said.

"Home?" Shinji asked.

"These ruins are full of puzzles; ancient fusions between diversions and door keys. One must solve them to move from room to room."

She stepped over a few switches and the door opened up. She walked up to the doorway, but stopped to look at Shinji.

"Please adjust yourself to the sight of them."

He nodded and followed her to the next room.

This room was a corridor with small waterways running next to the floor. In addition to torches, there were also three levers on the leftmost wall. On the floor was a light purple pathway that lead both straight ahead and off to the left. There was an open doorway at the end, but the way was blocked by spikes jutting out of the floor.

"I'd like you to try this next one." Toriel said. "To make progress here, you will need to trigger several switches. Do not worry, I have labeled the ones you need to flip."

She walked to the end of the corridor and stopped in front of the spikes. Shinji looked at the levers and saw that two of them had yellow writing next to them. He went up to the first switch and read the words: "Flip this one".

It was nice of her to label which ones to flip, but I can't help but feel like I'm being coddled.

He flipped the lever, then went to the other labeled one and flipped it too. The spikes retreated into the ground. Toriel nodded in approval and went into the next room. Shinji followed her.

The room was small and had only a dummy in it. Toriel stood next to the dummy and said, "As a human living in the Underground, monsters may attack you."

"A-attack me?" Shinji gulped and thought back to the encounter with Flowey. "So I need to learn how to defend myself?"

"Yes, but it's really simple. When you enter a fight, just strike up a friendly conversation. Stall for time and I will come to resolve the conflict. Now, try practice talking to the dummy."

"Talk? But what if they don't listen? What if they try to kill me, like Flowey?"

"I won't be too far, and if nothing else works, you can run."

Run awayâ€|of courseâ€|

Shinji walked up to the dummy. It was stitched together with white fabric and had a very neutral expression on its face. He opened his

mouth to speak, but found that he had no idea what to say.

"Iâ€¦uhâ€¦"

The dummy seemed to stare at him with its button eyes.

"â€¦heâ€¦heâ€¦"

It's just a dummy, Shinji. Just say something already.

All of a sudden, the dummy floated into the air and drifted away into the next room. Both Shinji and Toriel were dumbfounded.

"Umâ€¦" Toriel blinked. "Let's move on."

Shinji nodded and followed her into the next room. Strangely enough, there was no sign of the dummy. This one had a light purple path, though it had several bends in it, and it led nowhere. He kept this in mind as he followed Toriel to another corridor.

He stopped when he heard something croak behind him.

He turned around and saw a large frog hop towards him. It looked pretty timid, yet it continued to hop. It looked harmless enough, but Shinji wasn't going to let his guard down again, not after he was nearly killed by a flower.

"S-stop." He told it, trying to sound brave.

Surprisingly enough, it did just that. It cast its eyes downward and it turned around and hopped away. Shinji turned around and saw that Toriel was right behind him.

The monsters must be scared of her.

"Thank you." He told her.

"You are welcome." She smiled.

Continuing down the corridor, he saw a sign that read: "The western room is the eastern room's blueprint". When they reached the other room, he saw that the entire floor was covered in spikes.

"This is the puzzle," Toriel said, "butâ€¦here, take my hand for a moment."

She reached to take Shinji's hand, but the moment they touched, he yanked it back. He shook his head.

"Child, what is wrong?"

"â€¦Sorry," he said, "can I just follow you?"

"â€¦Very well, but stay close, okay?"

He nodded again. She approached some of the spikes and, to his surprise, they retreated into the ground. Toriel walked over the now safe floor and he followed close behind. She made a few turns as she

walked, and he realized that she was following the path in the previous room. It did not take them long to reach the end.

"Puzzles seem a little dangerous for now." She told him.

The next corridor was very long and had only a single pillar at the end.

"You have done excellently thus far, my child," she said, "however, I have a difficult request to ask of you. I would like you to walk to the end of the room by yourself. Please, forgive me."

She briskly walked down the corridor, leaving Shinji behind.

Why does she think this will be difficult?

He walked down the corridor until he had caught up with Toriel at the very end.

"Thank you for trusting me." She said. "There was a reason for this exercise: to test your independence."

"I'm fine." Shinji said. "I can handle myself."

"Wellâ€¦if you're sure, then can you wait here? There is business I must attend to. Here, I'll give you a cellphone."

She took out a cellphone and handed it to Shinji. Looking it over, he saw that it was an old model, yet it was still functional.

Now I can call for help!

"My number is in there if you need to contact me. Be good, alright?"

"I'll be fine." Shinji said again.

Toriel smiled and went on ahead. He opened the cellphone and immediately dialed Misato's number. The phone rang a few times, but nobody picked up.

Huh? Did I dial it wrong?

He tried again, but the end result was the same.

_Misato always has her phone on her, there's no way she _can't answer._

He wondered if the phone was broken. He looked through the directory and found a single name: "Toriel". He selected it. The phone only rang two times before a voice spoke on the line.

"Hello?" Toriel said. "Is there something wrong?"

"Uh, no," Shinji said, "just seeing if the phone worked."

"Well, it works; now you know. Talk to you soon."

She hung up. Shinji looked at the phone for a minute before closing it.

So it can't make calls above ground, but it can make calls here?

He looked at the doorway Toriel went through.

She told me to wait here, but what if a monster comes?

He decided to take his chances. He went into the next room and saw a pile of red leaves on the floor. Sitting in the pile was another frog. It looked at him, but it didn't make any movements. Shinji slowly walked past the frog. It croaked and he froze in place.

"Human," it spoke, "you don't like fighting, do you?"

"N-no." He answered.

"You know, not all monsters want to fight. If they don't want to fight, then please, show mercy and spare them."

"Iâ€|alright."

Shinji was about to go to the next room when the phone suddenly rang. He opened it and hoped that it was Misato. However, he saw that it was Toriel. He answered it.

"Hello?"

"Hello," Toriel said back, "you haven't left the room, have you?"

"Uhâ€|"

"There are a few more puzzles that I have yet to explain, and it would be dangerous for you to try to solve them on your own. Be good, alright?"

"Iâ€|I will."

She hung up again. He went into the next room and saw what looked like a bug with arms, legs, and wings. It spotted Shinji and fled. Feeling relieved that he didn't have to do anything, he continued on.

The floor suddenly gave way and he fell down. He let out a startled yell and he found himself landing on his rear. Fortunately, the fall wasn't too far, so Shinji didn't injure himself this time. The new room he was in was small, but had two doors. He opted to go through the one that was in front of him.

The room after that had spikes blocking the way, but it also had what looked like a switch on the ground. Next to the switch was a large rock. On the wall was a sign that read: "Three out of four grey rocks recommend you push them".

The phone rang again.

"Hello?"

"Hello again." Toriel greeted. "Um, for no reason in particular, which do you prefer: cinnamon or butterscotch?"

"Huh? Uh, butterscotch?"

"Oh, I see. Thank you very much. Um, you do not dislike cinnamon, do you? I mean, if it showed up on your plate, would you turn it away?"

"No, I like cinnamon, too."

"Okay. Thank you for being patient with me, child."

"_Child", again. Oh, but I never told her my name._

"Wait."

"Is something wrong?"

"â€|Shinji. My name is Shinji Ikari."

"That's right: I've forgotten to ask your name! How silly of me. You have a nice name, Shinji. Be good and wait just a little bit longer, alright?"

"Toriel, I'm not a child. I can take care of myself."

"I'm sure you can, but I can't help but worry. Talk to you soon, Shinji."

She hung up yet again. Shinji went up to the rock and pushed it onto the switch. As expected, the spikes lowered themselves, clearing the way. He went into the next room and stopped. Nearly every square inch of the floor had cracks on them.

There's no way I can cross this. Wait, Toriel passed through here, so there's got to be a safe path.

He cautiously placed a foot on one spot of the floor. When it didn't give way, he placed his full weight on it. Nothing happened. He took another careful step, but the part of the floor he stepped on crumbled, its pieces falling down below.

Okay, just take it slow.

It took him a long time to get across the room, but he didn't fall through once. The next room had more spikes blocking the way. There were three switches and three rocks, and it was obvious what he had to do. He stepped in the room and noticed that there was something else in the room with him.

It looked like jello, and it was alive. Its form jiggled as it slid towards Shinji.

"W-wait." He said. "I don't want to fight you."

It stopped for a few seconds, but then resumed its advance. White pellets appeared next to it and fired themselves at Shinji. He ducked, weaved, and dodged with ease, though he felt his movements

were a little awkward. The jello made squishy noises and wiggled in place. They stared at each other, waiting for someone to make the next move.

The jello made more noises and moved away from Shinji. He watched as it slid into the previous room, leaving a faint trail of slime behind, as well as a couple of gold coins. He didn't know what made it leave, but he was glad he came out of that encounter unscathed. He picked up the coins and looked at one closely. On one side was the face of a bearded goat monster. The other side showed a castle.

_So monsters have their own currency. _

He pocketed the coins and stared pushing the rocks onto the switches. He was about to move the third one when a voice suddenly said, "Whoa, there, pardner! Who said you could push me around?"

"Huh?" Shinji backed away from the rock. "You can talk?"

"Of course I can talk! You've never seen a talking rock before?"

"Well, no. Iâ€¦I just wanted to move you to that switch."

"That switch over there? Sure I can move, but only if you ask nicely."

"Umâ€¦can you please move onto that switch?"

"That's more like it!"

The rock moved itself until it was on top of the switch. The spikes lowered themselves. Shinji was about to walk across the floor when they suddenly shot back up. He looked back and saw that the rock had moved off the switch.

"I needed to get across." He said. "Could you please, um, stay on the switch, just until I get to the other side?"

"Oh, so you wanted me to _stay_ there." The rock said. "Alright."

It moved back onto the switch and the spikes were lowered once again. Shinji make it across without any other issues. The next room was small and only had a table with a piece of cheese on it. Curious as to why it was there, he tried to pick it up, but found that it was stuck on the table.

Something squeaked nearby.

He turned around, expecting to see another monster, but it was just a mouse poking its nose out of its mouse hole. It squeaked again and retreated further in the hole. He looked at the cheese again and decided to leave it. The next corridor was narrow and straightforward, except for one thing.

There was a ghost lying in the middle of it, blocking the way.

Ghosts exist? Well, I've already seen monstersâ€¦

“Home? Do I even call Misato's place "home"?_

"I feel better too" Napstablook said. "Hey watch this"

More tears came out of his eyes, but they flew up towards his head. They came together and formed a hat. He said, "I call it a 'Dapperblook'. Do you like it?"

Shinji nodded. "I didn't know you could do that. It's neat."

"Yeah it is. I know you're leaving, but can we be friends?"

"Sure, I guess."

"Thank you. Oh I'm in your way. I'll move. I guess see you soon, Shinji?"

He nodded again and Napstablook vanished. Shinji walked down the corridor, though he slowed his pace.

Friend...I wonder if Rei misses me. Father's probably mad. Misato yeah, I'm pretty sure she's mad, too. They'll probably make me pilot the EVA again if I come back. Where will I go once I get out of here? I have to go back. I can't keep running away.

3. 3-3

Evangelion: has complex characters.

Undertale: has simple characters at first glance.

This fanfiction: will most likely botch up **_Evangelion_'s** cast.

* * *

<p>"Spider Bake Sale. Food made by spiders, for spiders, of spiders. All proceeds go to real spiders."<p>

Shinji read the sign in the tiny room. He looked at the cobwebs and saw that, in addition to many tiny spiders, there were also two types of products on display: donuts and cider. He reread the sign.

"Of spiders? I'm hungry, but not that hungry. Well, I'll get something, just to be nice._

He took out the coins and counted eight total. He carefully set the pieces next to a donut, which cost eight gold. Several small black spiders scurried down the web and gathered around the gold.

"Uh, one, please." Shinji said.

The spiders pushed the donut towards him, then took the gold away. He carefully picked it up and sniffed it. He couldn't identify the smell, but it wasn't pleasant. He hung onto it as he moved to the

next room.

Cowering in a corner was another monster. It was short, had horns, and one big eye. It stared at Shinji and mumbled something.

"What?" He asked.

"I said don't pick on me!" The monster shouted.

White rings flew out of its one eye. Shinji dodged with ease and said, "I'm not here to pick on you!"

The monster stopped attacking. "Finally, someone gets it."

"Um, why would anyone pick on you?"

"I don't know, but if they pick on me, I pick on them."

"Youâ€¦you shouldn't pick on anyone."

"But everyone else picks on me."

"You don't have to listen to them, you know."

"â€¦You're nice. Canâ€¦can we be friends?"

"Sure." Shinji offered the donut. "Here."

"A spider donut? For me? Thanks."

The monster grinned and ate the donut in one bite. He asked, "See you around?"

Shinji nodded. Still grinning, the monster walked away.

Seems like a lot of monsters just want friends. Just like meâ€¦

The next room was big and had six cracks on the floor. There were rectangular holes on the walls close to the ceiling, but they were out of reach. A nearby sign read: "There is just one switch". As usual, the other end of the room was blocked by spikes. Shinji looked around, but didn't see a switch.

Wait, do I have to step onto one of those cracks?

He cautiously approached one of them. He pressed one foot down until the floor gave away. He crouched and peeked into the floor. There was indeed a room below, but he couldn't see a switch from where he was at. He moved so that he could grip the edge of the hole. He lowered himself and allowed himself to hang for a second before letting go.

The room had a pile of red leaves and a doorway, but no switch. He went through the doorway and found a single ladder going up. He climbed it until he reached the top. He looked forward and realized that he was looking through one of the rectangular holes. He crawled through it and dropped back into the previous room.

Okay, I feel better knowing I can come back up and try again.

He repeated the earlier process with another crack. In the room below, there was a root poking out of the ground. Hoping that he had finally found something to eat, he pulled it up.

He screamed and dropped it when he saw that it had a face.

"Farmed locally, very locally." It said with a grin.

Another monster?!

"I-I'm sorry!" Shinji quickly apologized. "I was hungry and I thought you wereâ€"."

"Hungry? Eat your greens!"

Many white carrots appeared next to it, as well as one green carrot. They bounced at Shinji, but he moved out of the way. He said, "I said I'm sorry! Don't attack me!"

"Greens!" The vegetoid sounded mad. "Eat your greens!"

More carrots appeared, as well as the green one.

Wait, so he wants me to get the green one?

This time around, he grabbed the green carrot while he dodged the rest. The moment it touched his hand, it vanished and Shinji felt slightly better. He felt like he had regained some of his lost stamina, though he was still hungry.

"Part of a complete breakfast!" The vegetoid grinned once more.

It hopped over to the hole where it was pulled out and buried itself into the earth.

So it wanted to help? Then why send out all those attacks?

Shinji shook his head and went through another doorway. Once again, he climbed a ladder and found himself in the upper room. He stepped on a third crack and looked down the hole.

Lying on a pile of red leaves was Napstablook.

"Ohâ€|" He said. "Hello, Shinji."

"What are you doing down there?" Shinji asked.

"I fell through and I can't get back upâ€|"

"Is there a doorway with a ladder? What about a switch?"

"No switchâ€|oh, waitâ€|I forgot I could flyâ€|"

Napstablook drifted upwards until he was in the upper room with Shinji.

"â€|oh wellâ€|"

He vanished. Shinji went to the fourth crack, stepped on it, and went

down. This time, there was a switch on the wall. He pulled it, then made his way back up.

He was about to enter the next room when everything suddenly began to shake. He instinctively ducked and covered his head. Bits of rubble fell from the ceiling, but none of them hit him. It stopped in less than a minute.

An earthquake? No, that ended too quickly. Wait, what if it was an Angel?! And I'm not there to pilot the Eva! Rei can Rei handle it on her own? What if she can't? I have to go back!

He tried to calm himself down as he proceeded forward.

The next several rooms had pillars with colored switches behind them. There were signs that said which switches to activate, so he didn't see how this was a puzzle. He was near the end when he came across two monsters. One was the jello monster while the other looked like a very large cockroach.

"HEED THE SWARM!" The cockroach commanded.

The jello only shook.

The next thing he knew, Shinji had to dodge both white pellets and a swarm of tiny insects. He was fortunately able to dodge them, but he was glad no one was looking, otherwise someone might have made a joke that he was dancing. The jello shook again and left, leaving slime and coins behind.

The cockroach suddenly smiled and said, "Nothin' like alone time!"

He waved his arms like he didn't have a care in the world. Shinji was surprised at this sudden change of personality. He cautiously asked, "Are you alright?"

"Feelin' good!" He answered. "I just love alone time! Mm, chaaa chaaa chaaa!"

"So, you don't want to fight anymore?"

"Nah."

Satisfied with the strange outcome, Shinji picked up the coins and left the monster to dance on his own.

The next room seemed to be the last. In the middle of it was a dead tree surrounded by red leaves. Past that was a little stone house. Toriel walked out of the front door.

"Oh dear, that took longer than I thought." She said to herself. "I should giveâ€"."

She now noticed Shinji and walked up to him.

"Shinji? How did you get here? Are you hurt?"

"No." He answered. "I-I'm sorry I left, Toriel. I just didn't want to be alone andâ€"."

"No, I'm sorry. It was irresponsible to try to surprise you like this." She paused. "Well, now that you're here, I can show you the surprise."

"Surprise?"

"Yes, come inside."

They went into the house.

It was surprisingly cozy inside. There were lights, furniture, and few vases and paintings that gave it the homely touch. There were rooms to the right and left as well as a staircase leading down. Shinji sniffed the air and he could tell that something was baking.

"Do you smell it?" Toriel asked. "I'm baking a butterscotch-cinnamon pie. I've also made dinner to celebrate your arrival."

"Celebrate?" Shinji was confused.

"There's one more thing. Follow me."

She went to the right and stopped in front of a door. She said, "You also have your very own room. I hope you like it."

"A room of my own?"

Shinji opened the door and looked inside. There was a simple bed, a drawer, and a box full of toys. It was obviously a room meant for a younger child.

"T-thank you."

Why? Does she expect me to live here?

"I'll fix you a plate." Toriel said. "Do you like quiche?"

"I've never had it before."

"I think you'll like it. Come to the living room when you're ready to eat."

She walked to the other end of the house. Shinji stared into the room.

She's nice, but I can't stay here, not when everyone needs me.

He decided that he would talk to her after he ate. He went to the living room. It had a lit fireplace, bookshelves, a dinner table, and a plush recliner. Toriel came back from the kitchen and placed two plates on the table, each with a slice of quiche on it.

"Thank you for the meal." Shinji said as he sat down.

Toriel also sat down and they began to eat. The quiche had egg, bacon, and cheese, so Shinji felt like he was having breakfast. It was actually pretty good compared to all the takeout food Misato bought.

A home cooked mealâ€|Toriel's like a momâ€|

"Um, Toriel?" Shinji said. "Can I ask you something?"

"What is it, Shinji?"

"Do youâ€|have any children?"

Toriel stopped eating and lowered her head. "Iâ€|used to, butâ€|"

Shinji immediately felt bad. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have asked. It's just thatâ€|you really act like a mom at times."

"I do. Does it bother you?"

"No, not all. I actually like it."

"Oh, but I'm sure I can't compare to your own mother, Shinji."

Now it was Shinji's turn to lower his head. "Actually, my momâ€|wellâ€|she...when I was littleâ€|"

Toriel seemed to understand what he was trying to say. "Oh, Shinji, I'm so sorry. I didn't know."

"And my dad doesn't evenâ€|"."

Why am I saying all this? I haven't known her for that long, and yetâ€|.

"â€|I'm sorry."

He stood up and went to his new room. He closed the door and went to the bed. It was a little small for him, so he had to curl his body in a fetal position. Then again, he would have done that even if the bed was the right size. He rested his head on the pillow and faced the wall.

I can't get close to her. I have to leave. I have to go back. If I get closeâ€|it hurtsâ€|it hurts so muchâ€|!

Shinji spent several minutes like that. Eventually, the door cracked open, but he didn't turn his head. He only looked once he heard the door close. Sitting by the door was a plate with a slice of pie and a tiny fork on it. He slowly got off the bed and walked up to it. He carried the plate back to the bed.

Butterscotch and cinnamon.

He took a bite.

â€|_It's really good._

It didn't take long for him to finish it. He set the plate on the floor and took out his SDAT. He put the ear buds in and played track 25. He curled up on the bed once more and isolated himself in his mind, where all he could hear was his thoughts and his music.

* * *

><p>Gendo Ikari sat at his desk, lost in his thoughts.<p>

The pilot of Eva-01 had been missing for twenty-four hours and he was now declared a missing person. Nerv officials looked all over Tokyo 3 and checked all the train surveillance tapes. Judging by those tapes, he was last at one of the poorer sections of the city, yet he was nowhere to be found. They were about to search the countryside when the Sixth Angel appeared.

Misato came up the plan to use a positron rifle to breach the Angel's AT Field, though with only one Eva and its pilot present, the chances were slim. The pilot of Eva-00, Rei Ayanami, was able to use the rifle to destroy the Angel, though its attacks nearly cost her her life. With her temporarily unable to pilot and Shinji missing, he had to call in for Eva- 02 and its pilot.

Things would have gone better if he hadn't run away.

The door opened up and he lifted his head to see who it was. It was Fuyutsuki.

"Report." Gendo said.

"There's news regarding Tabgha Base." Fuyutsuki said with an unnerved look on his face.

"Are there complications with Evangelion Mark 06?"

"It's not the Eva; it's the pilot. He found out about the Third Child's disappearance from Seele and he's nowhere to be found on the moon. I don't know how that's possible."

Given what he is, I'm not surprised he was able to leave, but now we have two pilots missing. You are you trying to look for him?

4. 3-4

**Evangelion****: is filled with depression.**

**Undertale****: is filled with determination.**

This fanfiction: is filled with sugar, butterscotch, cinnamon, snips, snail pies, and Annoying Dog tails.

* * *

><p>Shinji opened his eyes. He hadn't meant to doze off, but it turned out he was more tired than he thought. He removed his earbuds and sat up. He noticed that the light was out. Toriel must have switched them off.<p>

She's really looking after me, but

He got out of bed and left the room. He found Toriel sitting on the recliner with a book in her hand. Upon hearing his approach, she lowered the book and smiled.

"Did you rest well, Shinji?" She asked.

He nodded.

"You know, I'm glad to have someone here. There's so many things I want to share with you: my old books, my favorite bug hunting spot, and all my pie recipes. I even set up a teaching curriculum for you. It may come as a surprise to you, but I've always wanted to be a teacher."

She really wants me to stay.

"Um, Toriel?" Shinji spoke up.

"Yes? Is there something you need?"

"You've been so kind to me, but I have to go back. There are people out there looking for me andâ€|"

She frowned. "But Shinji, _this_ is your home now."

"I-I'm sorry, but I can't stay here."

She set her book down and stood up. She said, "Wait here. There's something I have to do."

She walked away.

"Toriel?"

Shinji followed her down the stairs and into a long corridor.

"Toriel! Wait! What are you going to do?"

"Up ahead is the end of the Ruins, and the way to the rest of the Underground. It is the only way out, and I'm going to destroy it."

"Destroy it?! Why?!"

"You're not the first child to come down here. Every one of them has met the same fate. They come. They leave. They die. If you leave the Ruins, theyâ€|Asgore, will kill you."

Shinji stopped.

"Kill me?"

"I am doing this to protect you, so please, go back."

He lowered his head and thought back to the earthquake from earlier.

They need meâ€|

He continued to follow Toriel.

"Go back." She said sternly. "This is your last warning."

They stopped in front of a door with a winged symbol on it. She turned around and faced Shinji.

"I have to go back." Shinji said again. "I'm worried about everyone andâ€¦"

"So you really want to go back?" Toriel asked. "Even if it means risking your life?"

He had a bad feeling about this, but he nodded anyway.

I mustn't run away, I mustn't run away, I mustn't run awayâ€¦

"You're just like the others. Then, you must prove yourself." She raised her hands and balls of fire appeared in them. "Prove to me that you're strong enough to survive."

Shinji's eyes widened.

"W-what?"

She flung the fireballs at him. This caught him off guard, and he was only able to dodge one of them. The other grazed his shoulder. He felt pain in both his shoulder and soul and he cried out.

"Why?!" Shinji demanded.

"Fight me or run." Toriel coldly said.

"No! I don't want to fight you, Toriel! Iâ€¦!"

An image suddenly appeared in his head. In it, Toriel was covered with bruises and she had a shocked look on her face. His hands were wrapped around her throat and the life was fading from her eyes.

"_Doâ€¦do you really hate me that much?"_

Shinji screamed and clutched onto his head. He had no idea where that grim image had come from. He was too caught up with it to notice that more fire was launched at him. It directly hit his soul and he stumbled backwards. Though he didn't suffer from any actual burns, he could still feel the pain.

"Stop it!" He screamed.

"Shinji, what are you trying to prove by doing nothing?"

"I won't fight you, Toriel, not after how kind you've been to me!"

She blinked. She had more fire in her hands, yet she did nothing.

"Pleaseâ€¦Torielâ€¦" He stared at her with watery eyes.

The fire went out in her hands and her head drooped.

"Don'tâ€¦don't look at me like that." Her voice cracked. "I know you

want to go home, butâ€¦I don't want you to die out there. I can take care of you here, so pleaseâ€¦"

"Toriel, you've been so good to me, and I really wish I could stay here, butâ€¦"

"â€¦I understand. It would be selfish of me to keep you here, and it's like you said: there are people looking for you, people who care about you. I can't keep you away from them."

She slowly walked up to Shinji and continued, "Just go through the door behind me and you'll be out of the Ruins, butâ€¦"

She wrapped her arms around him and pulled him into a hug. Shinji sniffled and pressed his face against her, her robe absorbing his tears.

"â€¦don't come back."

"Torielâ€¦thank you."

"Take care of yourself, and be good." She also sniffled. "Goodbye, Shinji."

She pulled away from the hug and walked away. Shinji watched her go until she was out of sight. He sniffled again and wiped his eyes. His heart ached, yet he forced himself to approach the doors and push them open.

He found himself walking down another long corridor. At the very end, he saw another pair of doors, as well as a familiar figure:
Flowey

Shinji gulped. "Youâ€¦"

"Thought I was dead?" Flowey asked. "In this world, it's kill or be killed. You, however, don't want to play by those rules. What's happened to you, Chara? You keep Loading, yet you've stopped killing everyone."

"Chara? What are you talking about? My name is Shinji."

"Shinji? Are youâ€¦"ohhhh, I get it. That explains this time, and last time as well. So, you don't want to kill anyone?"

"No! What gave you that idea?!"

"Then, what will you do if you meet a relentless killer? Will you allow yourself to die over and over again? Or will you give up and let me have that power again?"

"Power?"

"The power to Save. You should already know that. After all, you went back after killing so many monsters. But, what made you go back? Did you feel guilty? Killing them? Strangling her to death?"

His face morphed into that of Toriel's. The image from earlier popped into Shinji's head again.

"W-what are you talking about? I've never killed anyone!"

"Huh? You don't remember? Strange, but," he grinned wickedly, "it'll be all the more fun when you remember. Maybe then you'll go back to your old self."

He laughed and retreated into the ground. Shinji shook his head.

What is he talking about? I-I haven't killed any monsters! But, why won't that image go away? Why does it feel like I've actuallyâ€"?

He felt like screaming. Things weren't making sense, yet he felt like they should. It felt like he was missing pieces to a puzzle he didn't know about.

No, don't think about it. Just focus on getting out.

Shinji pushed the doors open and stepped through, crossing the threshold into unknown territory.

5. 3-5

**Evangelion****: the series that needs a happy ending.**

**Undertale****: the game that needs spinoffs.**

This fanfiction: the fanfiction that needs reviews.

* * *

><p>Shinji didn't know what to expect once he left the Ruins, but he didn't expect to find himself in a snowy forest. He shivered at the sudden cold. Rubbing his arms, he made his way forward.<p>

The only thing he saw so far was a large branch in the middle of the path. He looked at it and remembered Toriel's warning. He picked up a stick near the branch and gripped it tightly. It would have to do for a weapon. He stepped over the large branch and continued down the path.

He stopped when he heard a loud "snap" behind him. He turned around and saw that the branch was broken. However, there was nothing there, and no footprints in the snow other than his own to indicate that there was someone there. He now had a feeling that someone, or something, was watching him.

"Anyone there?" He called out.

Shinji was answered with silence. He became extra cautious as he continued on. He came to a bridge with what looked like a gate over it. However, the gaps were too big, so he could cross it with ease. He took a step forward.

"Human." A voice spoke from behind.

Shinji stiffened and the hairs on the back of his neck rose

up.

"Don't you know how to greet a new pal? Turn around and shake my hand."

Okay, don't panic, Shinji. It doesn't sound like he wants to fight.

He slowly turned around. Standing in front of him was a short skeleton wearing a blue jacket. He extended his bony hand out to him. Shinji took it without really looking at it.

A loud noise not unlike that of a fart sounded, breaking the silence of the forest. With that noise, all tension present vanished. Shinji blinked as the skeleton withdrew his hand and showed it. In his palm was a small whoopee cushion.

"heheh," the skeleton chuckled, "the old whoopee cushion in the hand trick; it's _always_ funny. say, you're human, right? i'm sans, sans the skeleton."

Good, he's a friendly monster.

"I'm Shinji, Shinji Ikari." He introduced himself.

"nice to meet you, pal. actually, i'm supposed to be on watch for humans right now."

Oh noâ€¦!

"â€¦but y'know, i don't really care about capturing anybody. now my brother, papyrus, he's a human hunting fanatic. actually, i think he's on his way back. follow me through this gate thingy."

Sans walked across the bridge, with Shinji following him. They arrived at a spot with a watch booth and a tall, oddly shaped lamp.

"okay, hide behind that conveniently shaped lamp." Sans told him.

"Behind the lamp?" Shinji asked.

"trust me on this."

It looks like he really wants to help me out.

Shinji hid behind the lamp and positioned the stick vertically so it wouldn't be seen. He peeked and saw that another skeleton had arrived. He was taller than Sans, and he wore armor and an orange scarf.

"sup, bro?" Sans greeted with a smile.

So that's Papyrus?

"YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP, BROTHER!" Papyrus scolded. "IT'S BEEN EIGHT DAYS, AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T RECALIBRATED. YOUR. PUZZLES! YOU JUST HANG AROUND OUTSIDE YOUR STATION! WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING?!"

"staring at this cool lamp. do you wanna look?"

"NO! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT! WHAT IF A HUMAN COMES THROUGH HERE?! I WANT TO BE READY! I WILL BE THE ONE! I MUST BE THE ONE! I WILL CAPTURE A HUMAN! THEN I, THE GREAT PAPYRUS, WILL GET ALL THE THINGS I UTTERLY DESERVE!"

Papyrus's expression became hopeful (puzzling Shinji, since he didn't know skeletons could show expressions).

"RESPECT, RECOGNITION! I WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO JOIN THE ROYAL GUARD! PEOPLE WILL ASK TO BE MY FRIEND! I WILL BATHE IN A SHOWER OF KISSES EVERY MORNING!"

"hm," Sans rubbed his chin bone, "maybe this lamp will help you."

Sans! Are you trying to give me away?!

"SANS! YOU'RE NOT HELPING, YOU LAZYBONES! ALL YOU DO IS SIT AND BOONDOGGLE! YOU GET LAZIER AND LAZIER EVERY DAY!"

"hey, take it easy. i got a ton of work to do! a skele-ton." His eye socket closed; a wink.

Papyrus was grinning, but he continued to be angry, "SANS!"

"come on, you're smiling."

"I AM, AND I HATE IT!" He sighed. "WHY DOES SOMEONE AS GREAT AS ME HAVE TO DO SO MUCH TO GET SOME RECOGNITION?"

"wow, sounds like you're working yourself! down to the bone." He winked again.

Shinji was surprised to find himself smiling at San's bad jokes.

When was the last time I smiled?

Papyrus groaned. "I WILL ATTEND TO MY PUZZLES, AND AS FOR YOUR WORK? PUT A LITTLE MORE BACKBONE INTO IT! NYEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEH!"

He continued to laugh as he left.

"okay," Sans said, "you can come out now."

Shinji came out of hiding. "I can't believe that actually worked."

"yeah, well." Sans shrugged.

"Thanks for helping me out, Sans."

He was about to leave when Sans said, "hey, actually, hate to bother ya, but can you do me a favor?"

"What is it?"

"i was thinkingâ€|papyrus has been kind of down lately, and he's never seen a human before. it would make his day if he saw one."

"You _want_ him to see me? But he just said that he'll capture any human he sees!"

"don't worry, he's not dangerous, even if he tries to be. i'll see you up ahead, shinji."

He nodded and went on ahead. He could see bits of the land between the trees. There was nothing but snowy fields below. Just the fact that they were below told him that he was somewhere up high.

This place is bigger than I thought.

A nearby tree shook and a large bird fell down. It righted itself and stared at Shinji. He noticed that its head and feathers resembled one big snowflake.

"Are you alright?" Shinji asked.

"Fine." He answered. "_Ice_ weather, isn't it?"

"Ice weather? Yeah, it's coldâ€".

"That was a joke!"

White crescents appeared and launched themselves at Shinji. He quickly moved to avoid them, but at least two scraped his arms. He quickly said, "I'm sorry! I didn't know it was a joke!"

"Let's try another one: better not _snow_flake_ out!"

Shinji smiled and nodded. "That's good."

"Good?! You're not even laughing!"

More crescents appeared. As he dodged once more, he said, "Hey, chill out already!"

"Chill out? I've already heard that one." The bird stopped its attacks. "My favorite type of cereal? _Frosted_."

Shinji forced himself to laugh this time. To him, it was odd hearing himself laugh.

"See?! Laughs!" The bird smiled. "Dad was wrong!"

"Yourâ€|dad?"

"Yeah, he says I can never be a comedian, but my jokes are good after all!"

"Youâ€|you can be a good comedian."

"Thanks. I like you. What's your name?"

"Shinji."

"I'm Snowdrake! Look me up once I make it big!"

Now grinning, Snowdrake fluttered off, leaving a couple of gold coins behind. Shinji pocketed them.

I made friends with another monster. Making friendsâ€¦feels pretty good.

He continued further into the forest. He stopped when he saw Papyrus and Sans up ahead.

Papyrusâ€¦andâ€¦"huh? How did Sans get here ahead of me?

"SO," Papyrus said to Sans, "AS I WAS SAYING ABOUT UNDYNEâ€¦".

He turned his skull and noticed Shinji. He looked at Sans, who looked at him, then at Shinji, who Sans was also looking at, and back to Sans again, who looked at him.

"SANS! OH MY GOD! IS THATâ€¦A HUMAN?!"

"actually," Sans said, "i think that's a rock."

He pointed to something next to Shinji: a small rock with a drawn smiley face on it.

"say, what's that standing next to the rock?"

"OH MY GOD! SANS! IS _THAT_ A HUMAN?"

"yep."

"SANS! I FINALLY DID IT! I FINALLY FOUND A HUMAN! UNDYNE WILLâ€¦I'M GONNAâ€¦I'LL BE SOâ€¦POPULAR, POPULAR, POPULAR!" He looked at Shinji and made a serious expression. "HUMAN! YOU SHALL NOT PASS THIS AREA! I, THE GREAT PAPYRUS, WILL STOP YOU! I WILL THEN CAPTURE YOU! YOU WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE CAPITAL! AND THENâ€¦AND THENâ€¦"

"and then?"

"I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S NEXT. IN ANY CASE! CONTINUEâ€¦ONLY IF YOU DARE! NYEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!"

He ran off again. Sans looked at Shinji and said, "that went well."

"You're right: he doesn't seem dangerous. I actually feel sorry for him."

"sorry? why?"

"Well, he's doing this so that people will like him, right?"

Just like why I pilot the Evaâ€¦

"yeah, all he really wants are friends. don't know why he hasn't made any other than undyne; he's a pretty cool dude."

"But, I can't let him capture me."

"never said you had to let him capture you, and i'll keep an eye socket out for you if anything happens."

"Thanks again, Sans."

"hey, i should be thanking you for making papyrus's day. see you up ahead."

Shinji nodded and continued on. He spotted another guard booth, but this one looked like it was made out of cardboard instead of wood. He read the sign on the booth: "YOU OBSERVE THE WELL-CRAFTED SENTRY STATION. WHO COULD HAVE BUILT THIS, YOU PONDERâ€¦I BET IT WAS THAT VERY FAMOUS ROYAL GUARDSMAN! (NOTE: NOT YET A VERY FAMOUS ROYAL GUARDSMAN.)

The writing alone told him that this was Papyrus's station. Further up ahead, he could see another booth, this time made of wood. There was a sign next it that read: "The post of Doggo. Absolutely NO MOVING!"

No moving? Well, it doesn't look like there's anyone in that station.

He started to walk past the booth when a tough looking dog's head poked out. It rose a little more, revealing a body and paws wielding two daggers. Shinji froze in place as its eyes darted back and forth.

"Did something move?" Doggo asked. "Was it my imagination? I can only see moving things. If something was movingâ€¦for example, a humanâ€¦I'll make sure it _never_ moves again!"

Heâ€¦can't see me? He's a dog, so why isn't he smelling me?

"Don't move an inch." The dog warned.

Light blue daggers appeared and slowly moved forward. Shinji held his breath as they moved past them. One of them actually went through his arm, yet he felt no pain.

They don't hurt me if I stay still? But I can't stay like this forever. Whatâ€¦wait, what if I throw the stick?

He flicked his wrist and sent the stick flying. Doggo's eyes widened and he started barking.

"Huh?!" He said. "A fun stick appeared!"

He jumped out of the booth and ran after the stick. Shinji used this chance to run. He was about out of sight when he heard the dog growl, "Wait."

He froze in place again.

Was I spotted?

"A stick appeared out of nowhere, then disappeared. Was it a ghost stick? Did I just return it to the afterlife? I need some dog treats

to think about this."

Shinji slowly turned his head and saw Doggo go back into his booth. He let out a sigh of relief and continued on. Up ahead, he saw a patch of ice with a sign in the middle. He also saw Sans again.

The skeleton waved him over. "hey, there's something i got to tell you."

"What is it?" Shinji asked.

"my brother has a very special attack. if you see a blue attack, don't move and it won't hurt you."

"I just found that out earlier."

"really? well, you should be fine, then."

"Um, Sans? How do you keep getting ahead of me?"

"oh, that? i know shortcuts."

"Shortcuts? I don't see any shortcuts."

"well, they're secret shortcuts."

"Okayâ€|"

Shinji decided not to press it. He walked up to the sign, being careful not to slip on the ice. It read: "North: ice. South: ice. West: ice. East: Snowdin Town (â€|and ice)"

Well, now I know which way I should go.

He went east and saw a large square area piled heavily with snow. On the other side were Papyrus and Sans.

"YOU'RE SO LAZY!" Papyrus said to his brother. "YOU WERE NAPPING ALL NIGHT!"

"i think that's called 'sleeping'." Sans said with a smile.

"EXCUSES, EXCUSES!"

They turned their heads and saw Shinji. Papyrus straightened himself and said, "OH-HO! THE HUMAN ARRIVES! IN ORDER TO STOP YOU, MY BROTHER AND I HAVE CREATED SOME PUZZLES! I THINK YOU WILL FIND THIS ONE QUITE _SHOCKING_! FOR YOU SEE, THIS IS THE INVISIBLE ELECTRICITY MAZE! WHEN YOU TOUCH THE WALLS OF THIS MAZE," he pulled out a blue orb, "THIS ORB WILL ADMINISTER A HEARTY ZAP!"

"Um, I could just walk around it." Shinji pointed out.

"WALK AROUND IT?! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH TO MAKE IT?! THAT'S JUST RUDE!"

"Iâ€|sorry. I'll do it. I'll do your puzzle."

I hope I make it throughâ€|

"THAT'S THE SPIRIT! OKAY, GO AHEAD."

Shinji decided to feel for the walls first. He stuck a hand out and moved forward. His fingers lightly touched some invisible wires. He jerked them back, expecting to get shocked.

Instead, the orb shocked Papyrus.

"SANS!" He shouted. "WHAT DID YOU DO?!"

"i think the human has to hold the orb." Sans suggested.

"OHâ€|OKAY."

Papyrus walked in a zigzag path, leaving a trail of footprints behind. Once he reached the other side, he held the orb out to Shinji and said, "HOLD THIS, PLEASE."

Deciding to go with it now that the correct path was made clear, Shinji took the orb. Papyrus walked back and said, "OKAY, TRY NOW!"

Shinji followed the trail he left behind all the way to the end. Once he reached Papyrus, he held out the orb and said, "I did it."

The skeleton's eye sockets blinked. "INCREDIBLE! YOU SLIPPERY SNAIL! YOU SOLVED IT SO EASILYâ€|_TOO_ EASILY! HOWEVER! THE NEXT PUZZLE WON'T BE SO EASY! IT IS DESIGNED BY MY BROTHER, SANS! YOU WILL SURELY BE CONFOUNDED (I KNOW I AM)! NYEH HEH HEH HEH!"

He went on ahead. Once they were the only two left, Sans said to Shinji, "hey, thanks. it may not look like it, but my brother's having a fun time."

"Yeah." Shinji looked at the orb in his hand and asked, "What do I do with this?"

"you can leave that here. see you up ahead."

He carefully placed the orb down and went on ahead. The trees had cleared away and he could now see that he was on top of a high cliff. Set up near a wooden bridge was a food cart. A blue rabbit monster was standing near it, looking depressed.

Shinji walked up to him and asked, "Is something wrong?"

"Yeah," the monster sighed, "I don't understand why these aren't selling. It's the perfect weather for something cold."

"What are you selling?"

"Nice Creams. It's perfect, since they won't melt so fast in the cold weather."

"What are Nice Creams?"

"Ice creams, except nice. Would you like to buy one for 15G?"

"Wouldn't it make sense if you sold them somewhere that's hot?"

"Sell them somewhere that's hot? But then they would melt quicker!"

"But everyone likes eating something nice and cold when it's hot."

"Hmâ€¦I might move this cart to somewhere warmer when I get the chance." The Nice Cream Guy sighed again.

"Umâ€¦I'll buy one."

"You will?!" The Guy's ears perked up. "Great! I have twenty-one flavors available. What would you like?"

"Um, do you have soda flavored iceâ€¦" "I mean Nice Cream?"

"I do! That'll be 15G!"

Shinji payed him and got a small Nice Cream pop in a wrapper. He opened it and pulled out a light blue pop. He noticed that there was writing inside the wrapper: "Love yourself! I love you!"

Love myself? How can I? It'sâ€¦still nice, though.

He decided to hang on to the wrapper. As he made his way to the bridge with the pop in his mouth, the Nice Cream Guy waved and said, "Have a fantastic day!"

Shinji waved back. He licked the Nice Cream and found that the flavor was the same as the ice cream he bought at the convenience stores. He stopped on the bridge and took his time savoring the flavor. The fact that it was just as cold as the air didn't bother him that much.

"Hey." A nearby voice said. "Hey, hey hey hey! Look. Look!"

Shinji looked down and saw a little snowperson with an ice cap on his head. He carefully stepped away from the monster. He hopped closer and said, "Don't ignore me!"

"Sorryâ€¦"

"Your head looks soâ€¦naked! It can't compare to this nice hat!"

"â€¦Yeah, it's nice."

"Envious? Too bad! This is _my_ hat!"

He frowned and continued to back away.

"Fine! Ignore me!"

White waves appeared and drifted towards Shinji. He ran to the other end of the bridge where they couldn't reach him. The monster hopped over to him, but tripped and fell on his face. The hat fell off and

slid past the edge of the bridge. The monster got up and stared at where his hat used to be.

"Iâ€¦" He sniffled.

Despite being attacked, Shinji still felt a little bad for the monster. He asked, "Can't you get another hat?"

"Yeah, but now nobody will think I'm cool."

"Cool?"

"My hat made me cool. Now that it's goneâ€¦"

"Youâ€¦don't need a hat to be cool."

"I don't?"

"No. You can still be cool without a hat."

"Iâ€¦you're right. I'm me, and it doesn't matter what they think! I'm cool!"

He grinned and walked away, leaving several coins behind.

Doesn't matter what they think? Yeah, it doesâ€¦

Shinji gathered the coins and moved on until he found a wide open area covered in ice. There were also two more sentry booths. A sign positioned between them read: "The posts of Dogamy and Dogaressa. Smell Danger Rating: Snow smellâ€¦snowman: White rating; can become Yellow rating. Unsuspicious smellâ€¦puppy: Blue rating. Puzzling smellâ€¦fox: Gold rating. Weird smellâ€¦humans: Green rating; destroy at all costs!"

_More dogs? Where are they now? _

He decided to move on before they showed up. Past the booths, he saw Sans again. He wondered just what kind of shortcuts this skeleton was able to find.

"hey," Sans said, "i saw that nice cream guy and i've decided to sell treats as well. want some fried snow for 5g?"

"Fried snow?" Shinji asked. "You can't fry snow."

"â€¦that's the joke, kid."

"â€¦Oh."

"you really need to see the more _humerus_ side of life, shinji."

That made Shinji smile. "I get that one."

"good, because I got a _femur_ where that came from. anyways, i think paps would get mad if we stayed and told jokes all day. he's up ahead with another puzzle. i made that one myself."

Shinji walked ahead until he saw both of them again. He looked back,

then forward.

I don't know how he's doing it, but I doubt it's with shortcuts.

"HUMAN!" Papyrus said. "I HOPE YOU'RE READY FORâ€¦SANS! WHERE'S THE PUZZLE?!"

"right there." Sans pointed to something on the ground.

It was a sheet of paper.

"there's no way he'll get past this one."

Shinji walked up to the paper and picked it up. He saw that it was a kid's word search puzzle. He looked at the skeletons, then at the word search again.

"Iâ€¦don't have anything to circle the words with." He said.

There was a moment of silence.

"SANS!" Papyrus scolded. "YOU FORGOT TO LEAVE A PEN!"

"whoops." Sans shrugged. "i must have left it next to today's crossword. huh, now that i think about it, maybe i should have used that instead."

"WHAT?! CROSSWORD?! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT! IN MY OPINION, JUNIOR JUMBLE IS EASILY THE HARDEST."

"what? really, dude? that easy-peasy word scramble? that's for baby bones."

"UN. BELIEVABLE." He pointed at Shinji and said, "HUMAN! SOLVE THIS DISPUTE! WHICH ONE IS HARDER?!"

"Huh?" Shinji blinked at this sudden question. "Um, I've always found crosswords to be hard."

"see?" Sans said. "the human agrees with me."

"YOU TWO ARE WEIRD!" Papyrus shook his skull. "CROSSWORDS ARE SO EASY. IT'S THE SAME SOLUTION EVERY TIME; I JUST FILL ALL THE BOXES IN WITH THE LETTER 'Z', BECAUSE EVERY TIME I LOOK AT A CROSSWORD, ALL I CAN DO IS SNORE! NYEH HEH HEH!"

He left again. Shinji walked up to Sans and asked, "Were you going easy on me with this?"

"maybe, or maybe i was too lazy to come up with a real puzzle."

He set the word find down and moved along. He saw two tables out in the open: one with a microwave and one with a plate of spaghetti and a note. Shinji couldn't even begin to think why all these things were out here. He hoped to get a better idea by reading the note: "HUMAN! PLEASE ENJOY THIS SPAGHETTI. (LITTLE DO YOU KNOW, THIS SPAGHETTI IS A TRAP DESIGNED TO ENTICE YOU! YOU'LL BE SO BUSY EATING IT THAT YOU WON'T REALIZE YOU AREN'T PROGRESSING! THOROUGHLY JAPED AGAIN BY THE GREAT PAPYRUS!) NYEH HEH HEH! SIGNED, THE GREAT PAPYRUS."

He's really trying everythingâ€|

Shinji picked up the fork and poked the spaghetti. He wasn't surprised to see that it was frozen solid. He looked at the microwave and was surprised to see that all the settings were set to "spaghetti".

There was a sudden bark. He turned his head, expecting to see a dog. He was half-right.

It was a white dog standing on its hind legs. He wore heavy armor and wielded a sword and shield. He barked again and ran up to Shinji. He let out a surprised yell and jumped up on the table. The dog stopped in front of him and wagged his tail.

"G-good dogâ€|" Shinji nervously said.

The corners of the dog's mouth stretched into a grin and it started panting.

What do I do? I don't think I can outrun it, and I left my stick behind.

The dog stopped wagging his tail and started to whine.

"You need something, boy?"

He continued to whine. Shinji cautiously stretched his hand out. The dog's tail started wagging again. He slowly placed his hand on top of his head and petted him. The dog craned his neck and pushed back against his hand.

"Good dog." Shinji said again, this time with a small smile.

He continued to pet him. His neck stretched and he went back to panting. When Shinji noticed that his neck was literally stretching, he stopped and withdrew his hand. The dog barked and ran off, his tail never ceasing to wag. A pile of coins was also left behind.

He just wanted to be pet? Well, he is a dogâ€| All he wanted was attentionâ€|why? Why do so many monsters remind me of myself?

6. 3-6

**Evangelion****: has a penguin.**

**Undertale****: has dogs.**

This fanfiction: has dogs and one fox.

* * *

><p>"Warning: Dog marriage"<p>

Dog marriage? What is that supposed to mean?

Shinji read and reread the sign, but he couldn't figure it out. He decided to move along. He stopped when he felt his foot sink. He

withdrew it and he could hear a "click". He waited for something bad to happen, but nothing did. He brushed the snow aside and saw that there was a button on the ground.

Continuing on, he saw gray platforms with holes in them. He figured that there were spikes, and that the switch he accidentally stepped on caused them to retract. He was about to move on when he saw two individuals approach him.

They were both dogs, though they wore black robes and carried axes. Their appearance unnerved Shinji, since they looked like executioners. They stopped in front of him and sniffed.

"What's that smell?" The first dog asked.

(Where's that smell?) The second dog asked.

"If you're a smellâ€¦"

(Identify yourself!)

They smell me, but they can't see me? It's the opposite of that other dog.

"I-I'm Shinji." Shinji said nervously.

"Shinji?"

(Never heard of a Shinji smell.)

They both sniffed again.

"It's a weird smell. It makes me want to eliminateâ€¦"

(Eliminate you!)

They both raised their axes and swung downwards. Shinji jumped backwards just in time, but he stumbled and fell. He rolled out of the way just as they swung their axes again.

Not good! I have to run! No, I mustn't run awayâ€¦"but they're going to kill me!

"Huh? That smellâ€¦?"

(That smell!)

The dogs sniffed again.

"You smell likeâ€¦?!"

(Are you actually a little puppy?!)

Puppy?

Shinji looked himself over and saw that he was covered in snow. Both dogs crouched down and continued to sniff him.

"Are you hurt, little puppy?"

(We feel so bad.)

"N-no." Shinji said.

He slowly stood up. The dogs also stood up, but one of their heads accidentally bumped his hand.

"Pet! I was pet by a pup!"

(Pet?! Pet me, too!)

Shinji looked at his hand, then reached out and pet the other dog on the head.

(Wow! A dog that pets other dogs!)

"See?"

(A new world has been opened up to us!)

"Thanks, puppy!"

They left Shinji with wagging tails. They also left a pile of coins behind. He looked at his hand again. He was about to brush the snow off, but then thought that it would be better if he didn't, just in case they came back. He instead pocketed the coins.

That was too close.

Up ahead, he could see many piles of snow, as well as two blue X's on the ground. Past them were a row of spikes blocking the way. There was also a switch and another sign. The sign read: "Turn every X into an O, then press the switch."

So, I just step on them?

He experimented by stepping onto one of the X's. It immediately turned into a red O. He did the same thing to the other X and pressed the switch. The O's turned green and the spikes retracted. From the other side, Papyrus came into view.

He saw Shinji and said, "WHAT?! HOW DID YOU AVOID MY TRAP?! AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IS THERE ANY LEFT FOR ME?!"

"Huh? You mean the spaghetti? Um...yeah, there's some leftover!"

"REALLY?! WOWIE! YOU RESISTED THE FLAVOR OF MY HOMECOOKED PASTA, JUST SO YOU COULD SHARE IT WITH ME?! FRET NOT, HUMAN! I, MASTER CHEF PAPYRUS, WILL MAKE YOU ALL THE PASTA YOU COULD EVER WANT! NYEH HEH HEH HEH! I'LL SHOW YOU THE NEXT PUZZLE! FOLLOW ME!"

They walked together. Shinji kept his guard up in case Papyrus tried anything. However, the only thing he did was make small talk.

"YOU KNOW, MY BROTHER STARTED A SOCK COLLECTION RECENTLY. HOW SADDENING! SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT HE WOULD DO WITHOUT SUCH A COOL GUY TAKING CARE OF HIM? NYEH HEH HEH!"

"Sans thinks you're cool." Shinji noted.

"I KNOW! SAY, HUMAN, DO YOU HAVE A NAME?"

"I do; it's Shinji."

"SHINJI? SOUNDS LIKE A NAME FROM ONE OF UNDYNE'S CARTOONS. LOOK, HERE'S THE NEXT PUZZLE!"

There were many piles of snow, and a lot of blue Xs. The snow piles looked like it made something familiar. Papyrus stood next to the switch.

"HMMMâ€|HOW DO I SAY THIS? YOU WERE TAKING A WHILE TO GET HERE, SO I DECIDED TO IMPROVE THIS PUZZLE BY ARRANGING THE SNOW TO LOOK MORE LIKE MY FACE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SNOW FROZE TO THE GROUND. SO NOW THE SOLUTION IS DIFFERENT AND, AS USUAL, MY LAZY BROTHER IS NOWHERE AROUNDâ€|BUT! WORRY NOT, HUMANâ€"AH, SHINJI, FOR I, THE GREAT PAPYRUS, WILL HELP SOLVE THIS CONONDRUM! WE WILL SOLVE THIS PUZZLE TOGETHER, THEN PROCEED!"

"Solve itâ€|together?" Shinji asked. "I thought you were trying to stop me."

"Iâ€"THAT ISâ€"UHâ€"I CAN'T GET HOME IF WE DON'T SOLVE THIS PUZZLE."

"â€|Oh."

"YES! O! WE FIRST NEED TO TURN ALL THOSE X'S INTO O'S!"

Shinji studied the puzzle, then it clicked for him. He mapped out a path in his head and followed it until all the X's were turned into O's. He pressed the switch and the spikes retracted.

"WOW!" Papyrus was obviously impressed. "YOU SOLVED IT! MY ADVICE REALLY HELPED YOU OUT! YOU MUST CARE ABOUT PUZZLES LIKE I DO!"

"Yeah, thanks."

"YOU'LL LOVE THIS NEXT PUZZLE, EVEN IF IT MIGHT BE TOO EASY FOR YOU! NYEH HEH HEH! I'LL SEE YOU UP AHEAD, SHINJI!"

He ran on ahead with incredible speed. Shinji was about to follow him when he heard a familiar voice say, "good job on solving it."

Without turning around, he asked, "Sans? Does Papyrus really want to capture me?"

"he's wanted to be in the royal guard for a long time, and he'll get in if he captures a human, but if he gets at least one friendâ€|what do you think, shinji?"

"I don't know."

"well, if you were papyrus, what would you do?"

"Iâ€|I would want to capture a human so that people will like me, so I could be praised, so I can haveâ€"."

That's why I pilot the Eva. Iâ€|I'm not that different from Papyrus.

"what if he can't bring himself to capture you? would you want to be friends with him?"

"Iâ€|you know what: I would."

"he would be happy to hear that. hey, let's not keep him waiting."

Shinji nodded and went on ahead.

In front of him was a large gray grid. On the other side was a rectangular machine with a colored grid for a monitor. Standing next to it were Papyrus and Sans. At this point, Shinji stopped questioning Sans's ability to show up wherever he wanted.

"YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS PUZZLE, SHINJI!" Papyrus said enthusiastically. "THIS WAS MADE BY THE GREAT DR. ALPHYS! YOU SEE THESE TILES?"

"Yeah." Shinji nodded.

"ONCE I THROW THIS SWITCH, THEY WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE COLOR! EACH COLOR HAS A DIFFERENT FUNCTION! RED TILES ARE IMPASSABLE; YOU CANNOT WALK ON THEM! YELLOW TILES ARE ELECTRIC; THEY WILL ELECTROCUTE YOU! GREEN TILES ARE ALARM TILES; IF YOU STEP ON THEM, YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT A MONSTER! ORANGE TILES ARE ORANGE-SCENTED; THEY WILL MAKE YOU SMELL DELICIOUS! BLUE TILES ARE WATER TILES. SWIM THROUGH THEM IF YOU LIKE, BUT IF YOU SMELL LIKE ORANGES, THE PIRAHNAS WILL BITE YOU! ALSO, IF IT'S NEXT TO A YELLOW TILE, THE WATER WILL ALSO ZAP YOU! PURPLE TILES ARE SLIPPERY; YOU WILL SLIDE TO THE NEXT TILE! HOWEVER, THE SLIPPERY SOAP SMELLS LIKE LEMONS, WHICH PIRAHNAS DON'T LIKE! BLUE AND PURPLE ARE OKAY! FINALLY, PINK TILES DON'T DO ANYTHING; YOU CAN STEP ON THEM ALL YOU LIKE! GOT ALL THAT?"

"Uhâ€|what?"

Papyrus groaned. "OKAYâ€|I GUESS I'LL EXPLAIN IT AGAIN. RED TILES ARE IMPASSABLE, YELLOW TILES ARE ELECTRIC AND DANGEROUS, BLUE TILES MAKE YOU FIGHT A MONSTER, GREEN TILES ARE WATER TILES, ORANGE TILES ARE ORANGE-SCENTED. IF YOU STEP ON ORANGE, DON'T STEP ON GREEN. BROWN TILES AREâ€|"WAIT, THERE ARE NO BROWN TILES! PURPLE TILES SMELL LIKE LEMONSâ€|"WHY DON'T THE YELLOW ONES SMELL LEMONY? UH, WAIT: I MIXED UP GREEN AND BLUE! THE BLUE ONES ARE THE WATER ONES! THE PINKâ€|"Iâ€|DON'T REMEMBER?! WAITâ€|THEY DO NOTHING! YOU GOT IT NOW?!"

"Iâ€|I guess?"

"GREAT! THERE'S JUST ONE LAST THING: THE PUZZLEâ€|IS ENTIRELY RANDOM! WHEN I PULL THIS SWITCH, IT WILL MAKE A PUZZLE THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE! NOT EVEN I WILL KNOW THE SOLUTION! NYEH HEH HEH! GET READY!"

Papyrus pulled the switch. The grid lit up with different colors and started to flash. Shinji clenched and unclenched his hand as he watched the squares flash faster.

_Okayâ€|you can do this, Shinji. Can't pass red, yellow smells like lemonsâ€no, yellow electrocutes, green summons monsters, orange smells like oranges, blue is water, _purple_ smells like lemons and is slippery, and pink is safe. Can't cross blue while smelling like an orange or when it's next to yellow, can cross blue while smelling like lemons, andâ€"._

The squares finally stopped flashing. There were only two colors on the grid: red and pink. The pink squares made a straight line to the other side. Everyone stared at it and said nothing. Papyrus slowly made his exit.

"wow." Sans said. "who would've thought?"

Shinji shook his head and continued onwards.

He saw another sentry booth, but that was not what caught his attention. There were many odd snow sculptures of a dog with an impossibly long neck. Some were twisted and some bent at angles that defied gravity. Shinji read the sign next to the booth: "Post of the Lesser Dog. Pleas pet dog."

This must be the post of that dog I petted earlier.

Past the snow sculptures, he saw Snowdrake and the Ice Cap-less monster talking to each other.

"You're getting better at those jokes, Drake!" The other monster laughed. "_Snow_ one's as good as you!"

"_Snow_ one." Snowdrake nodded. "That's another good one." He turned his head and noticed Shinji. "Shinji! _Ice_ to see you again! Ice Cap, this is the human I was telling you about."

"I know; I've met him, too."

Shinji walked up to them and said, "Hello again."

"Shinji," Snowdrake said, "I got another good one: you want fries with your _iceberg_er?"

"Icebergâ€?" Shinji got it and laughed.

"Lame!" A new voice said. "Your jokes _suck_, Drake."

A small, UFO shaped monster waddled up to the group. Snowdrake and Ice Cap both groaned, "Jerry."

"Yeah, everyone knows that!" Jerry said. He looked at Shinji and asked, "Who's this guy?"

"He'sâ€".

"No, wait, don't say anything! I'm thinkingâ€|yes! He's your hired audience, Drake! Wow. You're just that desperate to have someone laugh at your bad jokes."

Shinji frowned. "You're not being nice."

"Nice? How can I be nice when it's so _cold_!? Really, is anyone else freezing here?"

Ice Cap hopped close to Shinji and Snowdrake and whispered, "On the count of three, we ditch him. Oneâ€|twoâ€|three!"

The three of them made a run for it. Behind them, they could hear Jerry call out, "Some friends you are!" They stopped once he was out of viewing range.

"Is he always like that?" Shinji asked.

"Yes." Ice Cap sighed. "No redeeming qualities whatsoever."

"Hey _guys_!" They heard Jerry call out. "You're _so_ lame, ditching me and all that!"

"â€|He's coming this way."

"Let's split up." Snowdrake suggested. "He can't bother all of us at once if we split up."

Everyone nodded and went in different directions. Shinji found himself in front of an icy field. Past it was another cliff, separated by a small gap. Scattered about were more blue X's and a single switch. He slowly and carefully made his way across the ice. He stepped on each X so that they turned into O's. He slipped and fell once on the way to the switch, but he was able to pick himself back up and press it.

A bridge appeared, allowing him to cross over. He was glad to be off the ice once he crossed it. There were a few trees present and, past them, a small doghouse. He was about to head over there when something stepped out from behind the trees.

It looked like a reindeer, except it had garland and Christmas ornaments hanging from its antlers. Sitting on its back was a small gold fox that was kneading its front paws into its flesh. The reindeer monster snorted and muttered, "Another one of you teenagers."

"Huh?"

"You're not going to decorate me any further!"

Large, white snowflakes appeared and flew at Shinji. Because there were so many of them, a few actually managed to hit him as he dodged. He winced in pain and said, "I'm not going to decorate you!"

"You're not? How can I believe you when you teenagers do this to me all the time?"

"I can take those off of you, if you want."

"If I want? Of course I want them off!"

The monster stopped his attacks. Shinji slowly approached him and started undecorating him. He first removed the ornaments (some which had hateful writing, like "stupid"), then he unwound the garland from his antlers. He looked at the gold fox and asked, "What about the

fox?"

"Fox?" The monster asked. "I thought it was a cat. They didn't put it on me. It just showed up and started scratching my back one day. Itâ€|hurts sometimes, but it feels pretty good overall. It can stay if it wants to."

He eyed all the decorations that Shinji removed. He shook his head and added, "That feels better, by the way. Thank you."

"Why would someone put all these on you?" Shinji asked.

"They think it's just _so_ funny to decorate me. They pretend to be nice to me, but just when I let my guard down, they put all these stupid decorations on me and laugh. I can't trust anyone because of them!"

Can't trust anyoneâ€|I can relateâ€|

"Butâ€|you helped me out, soâ€|thank you. I'm Gyftrot."

"Shinji."

"Thanks again, Shinji."

Gyftrot smiled and walked away, leaving several coins behind.

Why do they always leave coins behind? Is that their way of thanking me?

Shinji turned his attention to the doghouse once more and walked up to it. One thing he also noticed was that there were many small piles of snow. He checked one to see if it was hiding anything, but it wasn't. He looked at the doghouse and saw that it was empty. The sign next to it read: "Post of the Greater Dog. (Woof)"

Such a small doghouse. Maybe this dog won't be so badâ€|if I come across it, that is.

Just as he was thinking that, a little white tail poked out of one of the snow piles, followed by a dog head. It wagged its tail and barked at Shinji. Then, it rose out of the snow pile.

It was sitting inside a giant suit of armor with legs, arms, and a spear in its gauntlet. Shinji's eyes widened at this unexpected occurrence. The Greater Dog barked again.

He yelled and tried to run, but the dog pounced on him. He felt the full weight of the armor press down on him and he struggled to get away. The dog, meanwhile, was sniffing and licking the back of his neck. Shinji was stuck between gasping for air and laughing from his neck being tickled by dog kisses.

"Hahâ€|stopâ€|! Ha haâ€|get off!"

The dog stood up and Shinji took in a big lungful of air. He stood up and looked at the Greater Dog, who was still wagging his tail. He had a feeling that it wasn't really hostile.

Maybeâ€|he wants to play?

"Iâ€|I would play fetch with you, butâ€|I don't have anything to throw."

The dog dropped his spear and nudged it towards him.

"You want me to throw this?"

The dog barked. Shinji bent down and picked it up. It was unsurprisingly heavy, and he struggled to lift it up with both hands. He tossed it, but it went less than a foot. Nevertheless, the dog picked it up and dropped it in front of him again.

"Sorry, it's too heavy for me to throw."

The Greater Dog leaned in close to Shinji. He petted its head and his tail wagged faster. He scratched behind his ears and the dog seemed to grin. It barked again and jumped out of the suit of armor, landing in Shinji's arms.

"You can get out of that thing?"

The dog licked his face a few times, then jumped back into the armor head first. Its rear end and tail poked out as it walked away, leaving his spear and more coins behind. Shinji rubbed the dog saliva off his face.

He really reminds me of sensei's dogâ€|I miss them both.

Up ahead, he could see a long, wooden bridge with no railings. He gulped. He told himself that he could do this, just as long as he didn't look down. He slowly made his way across the bridge. When he was halfway there, he could see Papyrus and Sans on the other side.

"SHINJI!" Papyrus called out. "THIS IS YOUR FINAL AND MOST DANGEROUS CHALLENGE! BEHOLD! THE GAUNTLET OF DEADLY TERROR!"

From the sides of the cliff and underneath the bridge, many weapons appeared, including a cannon, two spears, a flamethrower, a spiked ball on a chainâ€|and a white dog with an annoying grin on its face.

N-no wayâ€|

"WHEN I SAY THE WORD, IT WILL FULLY ACTIVATE! CANNONS WILL FIRE, SPIKES WILL SWING, BLADES WILL SLICE! THERE IS ONLY THE TINIEST CHANCE OF VICTORY! ARE YOU READY?! BECAUSE Iâ€|WILLâ€|DO IT!"

"Are you serious?!" Shinji shouted. "I thought you were trying to capture me, not kill me!"

"Iâ€|WELLâ€|THAT ISâ€|"

There was a moment of awkward silence.

"something wrong?" Sans asked.

"Y-YES! THIS PUZZLEâ€|IS TOO EASY TO DEFEAT THE HUMAN WITH. YEAH, WE

CAN'T USE THIS ONE! I AM A SKELETON WITH STANDARDS! MY PUZZLES ARE VERY FAIR, AND MY TRAPS ARE EXPERTLY COOKED, BUT THIS METHOD IS TOO DIRECT! NO CLASS AT ALL! AWAY IT GOES!"

The traps went back to their original positions. Shinji was relieved to see them go and, judging by Papyrus's expression, he was just as glad. He and Sans stared at the skeleton.

"WHEWâ€|WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? THIS WAS ANOTHER DECISIVE VICTORY FOR PAPYRUS! NYEH HEHâ€|HEH?"

Papyrus scratched the back of his skull and left. Shinji looked at Sans, but he only shrugged. He went ahead and saw a large sign that read: "Welcome to Snowdin!"

It was indeed a town. There were a few houses, a shop and an inn, a place to eat, and a library. At the center of the town was a Christmas tree with presents surrounding it. There were also many monsters present. A few stared at Shinji, but most didn't pay that much attention to him.

A monster townâ€|it feels just like any other town. I could rest or get something to eat; I haven't had anything other than that Nice Cream. Waitâ€|there's a library. It wouldn't hurt to know more about this place.

Shinji decided to go there first. The "Librarby", as its sign read, was small and had a few monsters in it. He went to the very back where the bookshelves were. He found a few titles that interested him: "Monster Funerals", "Monster History", and "Monster and Human Souls".

He pulled them out, sat at a table, and began to read.

7. 3-7

**Evangelion****: uses classical music in the most traumatizing scenarios.**

**Undertale****: uses the best music in the most memorable scenarios.**

This fanfiction: doesn't have music since it's a written work.

* * *

><p>"Monster funerals, technically speaking, are cool as heck. When monsters get old and kick the bucket, they turn into dust. At funerals, we take that dust and spread it on that person's favorite thing. Then their essence will live on in that thing...uhhh, am I at the page minimum yet? I'm kinda sick of writing this." â€|Dust? That's kind of sad, but I guess it's better than leaving a body behindâ€|

Shinji moved on to the next book.

"_While monsters are mostly made of magic, human beings are mostly made of water.__Humans, with their physical forms, are far stronger than us. But they will never know the joy of expressing themselves

through magic. They'll never get a bullet-pattern birthday card..."
Bullet-pattern? So when monsters attack, they're actually expressing themselves? I think that's what's it's saying?_

He set the second book aside and picked up the third one.

"_Because they are made of magic, monsters' bodies are attuned to their souls._ _If a monster doesn't want to fight, its defenses will weaken. And the crueler the intentions of our enemies, the more their attacks will hurt us. Therefore, if a being with a powerful soul struck with the desire to kill...um, let's end the chapter there..."
Magicâ€|after everything I've seen, I'm not surprised it exists._

"_Love, hope, and compassion: this is what people say monster souls are made of._ _But the absolute nature of soul is unknown. After all, humans have proven their souls don't need these things to exist."
â€|It's right about thatâ€|_

Shinji got up and looked for more books. However, most of them were just fictional stories. The ones that weren't stories were crossword books that have already been filled out.

His phone suddenly rang. The librarian at the front desk folded her arms and said, "Excuse me, can you take that outside?"

"Sorry." Shinji quickly apologized.

He left the library and opened his phone. There wasn't a name and he didn't recognize the four digit number, but he answered it anyways.

"Hello?"

"**Anno-san? Listen, I know what you're going through, and I want to sayâ€|"wait, is this the wrong number?**"

"Uhâ€|."

"_**Oh it's the wrong number~! The wrong number song~! We're very very sorry that we got it wrong~! Oh it's the wrong number~! The wrong number song~! We're very very sorry that we it wrong~!**_"

The individual on the other end hung up. Shinji stared at his phone, not knowing what to make of what he had just heard. He thought it would be best if he moved along and pretended it never happened. He decided to get something to eat before he left Snowdin. He saw a place called "Grillby's" and decided to check it out.

There were many monsters inside the diner, including all the sentry dogs he had met earlier. Everyone gave a short glance at him before going back to whatever they were doing. Shinji went to the farthest barstool and sat down.

A monster with a flame for a head approached him. He stared at him, but said nothing. A nearby bird monster said, "Grillby wants to know what you want."

"Oh, uhâ€|"

Shinji didn't know how that monster was able to understand him when he didn't even speak. He looked in front of him and noticed a menu. He picked it up and decided to go with the cheapest thing.

"Fries and water, please." Shinji said.

Grillby shook his head.

"He says he doesn't touch the stuff." The bird monster said.

"Um, root beer, then?"

Grillby nodded and went through a door in the back, presumably to the kitchen. The bird monster looked at Shinji and said, "I see you're not from around here."

"N-no." Shinji looked away. "I'll leave shortly."

"No one said you had to leave. I was just wondering if you were from the city."

"City? Y-yeah."

"It's a cityâ€¦"

"Snowdin's pretty nice, isn't it?"

Shinji nodded. Grillby came back with a plate of fries and a glass of root beer. He set them down and presented a slip of paper: a check. Shinji was amazed that he didn't set anything on fire. He looked at the check and saw that he owed 35G. He pulled out the coins and set them on top of the check. Grillby took them and nodded before tending to another customer.

The fries were a little spicy, but the root beer helped cool his mouth down. He considered getting something else, but decided that he should get going. He gave Grillby his compliments and left.

Shinji passed by a few more houses before he reached the edge of town. There was only one path leading out lined by trees and a river with pieces of ice drifting in its currents. He shivered and kept walking. He stopped once he saw a familiar figure blocking his path.

"SHINJI." Papyrus said. "ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU SOME COMPLEX FEELINGS; FEELINGS LIKE THE JOY OF FINDING ANOTHER PASTA LOVER, THE ADMIRATION FOR ANOTHER'S PUZZLE-SOLVING SKILLS, AND A DESIRE TO HAVE A COOL, SMART PERSON THINK YOU'RE COOL. THESE FEELINGSâ€¦THEY MUST BE WHAT YOU ARE FEELING RIGHT NOW!"

"Iâ€¦kind ofâ€¦" Shinji admitted. "I wish I could have friends, butâ€¦"

"BUT WHAT?"

"But everyone I try to get close toâ€¦I want us to be friends, but you want to capture me."

"REALLY? YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH ME? Iâ€¦SHINJI, I REALLY WANT TO, TOO...BUT NO! YOU ARE A HUMAN! I MUST CAPTURE YOU SO I CAN

FULFILL MY LIFELONG DREAM! POWERFUL! POPULAR! PRESTIGIOUS!"

"I can't let you capture me, Papyrus, but I don't want to fight you either. Please, just let me go. I have people waiting for me."

"I'M SORRY, SHINJI, BUT I MUST!"

Small bones poked out of the ground and moved towards Shinji. He was able to easily move out of the way. He had faced attacks worse than this, soâ€|

Is he holding back? Maybe he'll stop if I keep talking to him.

"You don't have to do this, Papyrus!" Shinji tried to reason.

"YOU WON'T FIGHT?" Papyrus asked. "THEN, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN HANDLE MY FABLED BLUE ATTACK!"

Many tall, light blue bones sped towards him. Remembering the fight with Doggo, Shinji stayed still. Each and every bone passed through him without doing any damage. Once the last one had passed, however, he suddenly dropped to the ground. A white bone appeared and hit him.

What?

It felt like he had gotten heavier. It took him some effort just for him to get on his hands and knees. He looked down and noticed that his red heart had turned dark blue.

"YOU'RE BLUE NOW." Papyrus said. "NYEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!"

More white bones came at Shinji. He settled for rolling side to side to dodge the bones. A sudden image appeared in his head: himself on the ground, crying into gray stained hands. Papyrus held him in a loose embrace.

"_IT'S OKAY, HUMAN. TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON._"

Againâ€|just like with Toriel.

"I CAN ALMOST TASTE MY FUTURE POPULARITY!" Papyrus said. "PAPYRUS: HEAD OF THE ROYAL GUARD, UNPARALLELED SPAGHETTORE! UNDYNE WILL BE REALLY PROUD OF ME!"

The attacks became more frequent. Shinji struggled to dodge them all. One got him and he fell back down. However, he was not giving up just yet.

"THE KING WILL TRIM A HEDGE IN THE SHAPE OF MY SMILE! MY BROTHER WILLâ€|WELL, HE WON'T CHANGE VERY MUCH. I'LL HAVE LOTS OF ADMIRERS, BUTâ€|WILL ANYONE LIKE ME AS SINCERELY AS YOU? AFTER YOU'RE CAPTURED AND SENT AWAYâ€|OH WHO CARES!? JUST GIVE UP ALREADY!"

In addition to white bones, blue bones were also thrown into the mix of attacks. Sensing Papyrus's hesitation in his voice, he tried to talk to him again.

"We can be friends, Papyrus," he said, "just stop attacking

me."

"Iâ€"I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT EITHER, SHINJI, BUTâ€"I STILL HAVE TO CAPTURE YOU!"

"I can't! I have to go back!"

"THEN PREPARE TO FACE MY SPECIAL ATTACK!"

A large bone launched itself at him at incredible speed. Before it could hit him, however, a white dog suddenly jumped out of nowhere and caught it in its mouth. It sat down and started gnawing on the bone. Shinji and Papyrus stared at the dog, both stupefied at its sudden appearance.

"WHAT THE HECK?!" Papyrus shouted. "HEY, YOU STUPID, ANNOYING DOG! STOP MUNCHING ON THAT BONE!"

The dog stopped gnawing on the bone, but it stood up and ran off with it.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! COME BACK HERE WITH MY SPECIAL ATTACK!" He sighed and turned his attention back to Shinji. "OH WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE A REALLY COOL REGULAR ATTACK." He sighed again. "HERE IT IS: AN ABSOLUTELY NORMAL ATTACK."

The bones came at him again, except they didn't seem to be letting up. Eventually, bones that formed the words "Cool Dude" appeared. There was no room to roll to the side.

I have to jump over them.

Shinji fought against the weight and stood up. He managed to make a short hop over the first word, but the weight pulled him down again and the other word hit him. He clenched his hands and teeth. He was close to giving out.

Noâ€|I can'tâ€|

His eyes widened with disbelief when he saw several rows of bones heading his way. He struggled to get to his feet again. He took a few staggering steps backwards, then ran at the bones and leaped. He cleared most of them, but he crashed into a giant bone and was knocked backwards. He finally cried out in pain.

Papyrus stopped his attacks, his face looking guilty. He panted and said, "IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU CAN'T BEAT ME. THEREFORE I, THE GREAT PAPYRUS, SHALLâ€|"

Shinji looked at Papyrus right in the eye socket, his expression pleading. The skeleton frowned and his skull drooped. Shinji's heart turned back to red and the weight was finally lifted. He let out a relieved sigh and weakly got to his feet.

"Iâ€"I CAN'T CAPTURE YOU! YOUâ€"YOU'RE TOO GOOD, SHINJI! UNDYNE'S GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED IN MEâ€|"

"Papyrus," Shinji said, "I'm sorry. If I could, I would help you. Iâ€|I know what it's like, wanting to have friends and have people praise you. I can't let you capture me, but I can be your

friend."

"Aâ€|FRIEND? YES! I HAVE A FRIEND! I HAVE YOU, SHINJI!"

Papyrus ran forward and hugged Shinji tightly. He winced in discomfort, but he lightly returned the hug.

"AS FRIENDS, I WILL DO YOU A SPECIAL FAVOR: I WILL LET YOU GO AND GIVE YOU DIRECTIONS TO THE SURFACE!"

"R-really?!"

Papyrus stopped hugging Shinji and said, "CONTINUE FORWARDS UNTIL YOU REACH THE END OF THE CAVERN. THEN, WHEN YOU REACH THE CAPITAL, CROSS THE BARRIER."

"Barrier?"

Napstablook said something about a barrier, too.

"THAT'S THE MAGICAL SEAL TRAPPING US ALL UNDERGROUND. ANYTHING CAN ENTER THROUGH IT, BUT NOTHING CAN EXIT, NOT UNLESS THEY POSSESS A POWERFUL SOUL LIKE YOU! THAT'S WHY THE KING WANTS TO ACQUIRE A HUMAN. HE WANTS TO OPEN THE BARRIER WITH SOUL POWER SO US MONSTERS CAN RETURN TO THE SURFACE. OH, BUT TO REACH THE BARRIER, YOU MUST PASS THROUGHâ€|THE KING'S CASTLE."

Shinji gulped. "So I might have to face him?"

"YES, THE KING OF ALL MONSTERS. TO BE HONEST, WELLâ€|HE'S A BIG FUZZY PUSHOVER! EVERYONE LOVES THAT GUY. I'M CERTAIN THAT IF YOU JUST SAY 'EXCUSE ME, MR. DREEMURR, CAN I PLEASE GO HOME', HE'LL GUIDE YOU STRAIGHT TO THE BARRIER HIMSELF!"

"That'sâ€|is he really that nice?"

"OF COURSE HE IS! I'M HEADING BACK HOME. IF YOU EVER WANT TO HANG OUT BEFORE YOU GO, STOP ON BY! NYEH HEH HEH HEH!"

He nodded. Papyrus grinned and walked back to Snowdin. Shinji turned around and called out, "Papyrus! Thank you!"

Papyrus turned around and waved enthusiastically in response. Shinji, weak as he was, decided to press onwards. He would have rested at the inn, but he didn't want to waste any time, not when the Angels were attacking Tokyo 3.

Once all the Angels are gone, I'll come back and see you all againâ€|Papyrus, Sans, Toriel, everyoneâ€|

* * *

><p>Sans stood at his sentry post near the Ruins, feeling particularly bored. All he could do was stare at the conveniently shaped lamp. He was about to move to his other post past Snowdin when he heard something approaching.<p>

To his surprise, it was another human. He wore a dark purple outfit that covered everything but his head. He also had short gray hair and red eyes. Sans blinked. He had seen several humans before, but never

one with red eyes.

The boy, for he looked to be around Shinji's age, stopped and turned his head to look at Sans. He could easily read the expression on his face, and what it implied.

"that look on your face," he said, "that's the look of someone who's seen me once before."

"Very observant, Sans." The boy said. "For someone who can't remember what's happened in the previous timelines, you read the expressions of those who know about them down to the finest detail."

"eh, it's something i've picked up over time and time again. so, did you come here by accident, or are you looking for someone?"

"Shinji."

"i thought so. are you here to bring him back to the surface?"

"If that's what he wants. I only care about one thing: that he finds happiness."

"good luck with that; kid seems to have a lot on his shoulders. he just left snowdin, so maybe you can catch up to him."

The boy nodded and walked away, muttering, "This time, Shinji, this time..."

8. 3-8

Evangelion****:** one of the most popular anime in Japan.**

Undertale****:** one of the most popular games in the English language.**

****This fanfiction:** the most popular story I have written so far (in terms of views, not reviews).**

* * *

><p>The new area was cavernous, but a little bit warmer than Snowdin. It was damp and had many little streams and waterfalls. There was also a sentry booth, but no one was in it. Past that, there was a large waterfall with rocks falling with the water. There was a bridge that ran next to the falls.<p>

Shinji felt the spray soak him as he crossed it. He kept walking until he came across a very tall patch of grass. With no way around it, he went through it. He stopped when he heard the sounds of metal footsteps. He looked up.

Standing on a cliff above him was a knight with long red hair in a ponytail. Though the hair was showing, the rest of the head was concealed by its helmet. He saw Papyrus approach it. Given his loud voice, he was easily able to hear what he was saying.

"Hâ€"HI UNDYNE." He nervously said. "I'M HERE WITH MY DAILY REPORTâ€|UHHHâ€|REGARDING THAT HUMAN I CALLED YOU ABOUT EARLIERâ€|"

The knight turned her head to look at him. Shinji could hear her speaking, but he couldn't make out the words.

"Y-YES I FOUGHT HIMâ€|NO, I DIDN'T CAPTURE HIM. I TRIED VERY HARD, UNDYNE, BUT IN THE ENDâ€|I FAILEDâ€|WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THE HUMAN'S SOUL FOR YOURSELF? BUT UNDYNE, YOU DON'T Hâ€"HAVE TO DESTROY HIM! YOU SEEâ€"!"

Undyne took a step forward, as if challenging Papyrus.

"â€|Iâ€|I UNDERSTANDâ€|"

Papyrus meekly backed away, then left.

So that's Undyneâ€|

Something in the grass rustled. Undyne turned her head and a blue spear appeared in her hand. Shinji covered his mouth and held his breath. He prayed that she didn't see him. After a minute passed, the spear vanished and she walked away. Shinji waited for her footsteps to fade away before he came out of hiding.

As soon as he left the grassy patch, he heard something rustle again. He turned around and yelped in surprise when a small monster jumped out. He looked like a little dinosaur, but without arms.

"Yo," he said, "did you see the way she was staring at you? Thatâ€|wasâ€|awesome! I'm so jealous!"

"J-jealous?" Shinji asked.

"No duh! Undyne's the coolest! C'mon! Let's go watch her beat up some bad guys!"

The kid ran forward, but tripped and fell on his face. Shinji was about to help him up when he got back up and took off. He had no idea how he was able to pick himself back up without arms. He decided just to go on ahead.

He was met with a stream with no way to cross the other side. He wondered how Monster Kid was able to cross it. He probably swam, but he didn't want to do that unless he had no other choice. He looked around and saw some large seeds and a sign. The sign read: "When four Bridge Seeds align in the water, they will sprout."

Bridge Seeds? Might as well try.

Shinji picked up one of the seeds and set it in the stream. It slowly drifted until it reached the other end. He did the same thing with three more seeds. Once they made contact with each other, they bloomed. The large petals and leaves reminded him of giant lotuses.

He carefully placed a foot on one of the flowers. He was surprised to find that it was able to support his full weight. He placed his other foot down and made his way across the bridge to the other side.

This room was larger and had another small stream that prevented him access to the next room. Fortunately, there were more Bridge Seeds present. He was about to pick one up when he heard a loud splash behind him.

In the stream was a horse with large, muscular arms and a fish's tail. It reminded Shinji of a mermaid, except for the obvious. The monster flexed his arms. Though his physique was intimidating, his face was not, so Shinji decided to talk to him.

"H-hello." He said.

"Hello." The monster winked as he continued to flex. "The name's Aaron, and I love muscles." Wink.

"I-I can tell."

"Check all you want." Wink. "What are your muscles like?" Wink.

Shinji was creeped out by this monster's constant winking. He tried to maintain his composure and said, "I don't have muscles."

"Everyone has muscles." Aaron winked once more. "You just got to flex them, like this." He flexed his arms again. "Give it a try." Wink.

He'll probably attack me if I don't.

Shinji reluctantly flexed one of his arms.

"You can do better than that." Wink. "Flex harder!" Wink.

He did just that, but there was barely any muscle to show. Aaron also flexed harder. He was so busy flexing that he didn't notice that he was drifting down the stream. Shinji watched as he drifted out of sight. He lowered his arm, thankful that that creepy monster was gone.

He turned his attention to the Bridge Seeds again. He had to figure out where to place them, but he was able to quickly come up with a solution. He placed four Bridge Seeds into the water and watched them connect and blossom. He crossed the newly formed floral bridge to the other side.

His phone rang.

Huh? Is it Toriel, or another wrong number?

He flipped it open and saw the name "Papyrus". Curious as to how he even got his number, he answered it.

"Hello?"

"HEY SHINJI!"

"Papyrus? How did you get this number?"

"IT WAS EASY! I JUST DIALED EVERY NUMBER SEQUENTIALLY UNTIL I GOT YOURS!"

"Really?"

"REALLY! SO, I'M CALLING TO ASK IF YOU'VE SEEN THAT ANNOYING DOG SINCE OUR FIGHT."

"That white dog? No, I haven't seen it."

"WELL, THAT MEDDLING CANINE STOLE MORE OF MY BONES! AND HE WAS LAST SEEN HEADING TO WATERFALL! IF YOU SEE HIM CATCH HIM BEFORE HE STEALS ANYTHING ELSE!"

"I'll try if I see him."

"THANKS, SHINJI! YOU'RE A GREAT FRIEND!"

He hung up. Shinji stared at his phone for a minute.

I haven't talked to Toriel in some time.

He dialed her number. As he listened to the dial tone, he heard a faint ringing in the next room. Wondering if it was a coincidence, he hung up. The ringing stopped.

That's weird.

Shinji went into the next room to investigate the source of the ringing. The room was actually a corridor with a high ceiling lined with stones that glittered like stars. There were also a few large, blue flowers growing in different spots. A sign on the wall read: "Wishing Room".

He lightly touched one of the flowers.

"A long time ago, monsters would whisper their wishes to the stars in the sky." A voice from the flower spoke. "If you hoped with all your heart, your wish would come true. Now, all we have are these sparkling stones on the ceiling."

"Wait," Shinji said, "so monsters weren't always in the Underground?"

No response. He lightly touched it again and it repeated its message. It reminded him of messages left on phones. He decided to investigate by examining the other flowers. He went to another one and brushed his fingers on its petals.

"Thousands of people wishing together can't be wrong! The king will prove that."

He did the same thing with two more flowers.

"C'mon sis! Make a wish!"

"I wish my sister and I will see the real stars someday!"

Up ahead, he saw a lone telescope set up. He guessed that monsters used it to look up at the stones. He went up to it and looked through

it. The stones in the ceiling didn't look like stars, but their sparkle was close.

"Pretty, aren't they?" A voice asked.

Shinji jumped at the close proximity of the voice. He looked and saw what looked like a tub of water with the head and limbs of a turtle. Floating in the tub of water was a little yellow bird.

"Uh, yeah." Shinji nodded.

"U know, I wish for the whole world to be clean."

"For the whole world to be clean? Why?"

"Because everything is so dirty! Everything needs to be washed, scrubbed, and cleaned!"

"That'sâ€¦not a bad wish."

"What about u? What do u wish for?"

What do I wish for? Too many thingsâ€¦

"Iâ€¦I have too many wishes, all of them impossible."

"Have u listened to the Echo Flowers? Everyone makes wishes, no matter how impossible they are."

"Iâ€¦okayâ€¦"

Shinji lowered his head.

I wish my father would like me; that we can get closer. I wish I don't have to be an Eva pilot. I wish the Angels never came. I wish I never have to be alone againâ€¦

He lifted his head up and said, "I've made my wishes."

"I hope they come true for u." The monster said.

The bird tweeted and the monster shuffled away. Shinji took one last look at the ceiling before he moved along.

He found himself on a long boardwalk. Reeds grew out of the water and little bugs darted about. There were five old plaques on the wall with slightly faded writing. He went to each one and read them to himself.

"'_The War of Humans and Monsters'. Why did the humans attack? Indeed, it seemed they had nothing to fear. Humans are unbelievably strong. It would take the soul of nearly every monster just to equal the power of one human soul, but humans have one weakness. Ironically, it is the strength of their soul. Its power allowed it to persist outside the human body, even after death. If a monster defeats a human, they can take its soul. A monster with a human soulâ€¦a horrible beast with unfathomable power.'"_

_So humans have fought the monsters? Then why don't the humans know about them? You think there would at least be history books about

thisâ€¦if the monsters got out now, then what would Nerv or the government do? Would they imprison them? Kill them?_

Shinji shook his head. Every possibility was grim, and he didn't want to think about it. He looked at the last plaque and saw a picture of a monster on it. Though it was crudely drawn, it still looked terrifying. He started to walk down the boardwalk.

A blue spear landed in front of him, its tip embedded in the wood. He jumped back and looked around to see who threw it. Standing on a ledge was Undyne, who had another spear in her hand. She drew a line across her throat, then threw the spear.

Shinji bolted down the boardwalk. Many spears landed behind him, but some landed in front of him. So far, none of them were hitting him, and he hoped to keep it that way. Up ahead, he saw another field of tall grass. He ran into it just as he heard something land behind him.

He picked a corner to hide and ducked down. He could hear Undyne's metal footsteps approach him. He held his breath when she stopped. Something rustled in front of him and she grabbed it and pulled it up.

"Yowch!"

It was the Monster Kid. Undyne stared at him for a few seconds, then set him down and walked away. Shinji waited until she was gone before he came out of hiding. The grass rustled again and the Monster Kid came out with him.

"Yo, did you see that?!" He asked. "Undyne just touched me! I'm never washing my face ever again! Man, are you unlucky!"

"But if she got meâ€¦" Shinji looked away.

"Yo, don't worry! I'm sure we'll see her again!"

The Kid started to run, but tripped and landed on his face again. Just like last time, he managed to get back up without assistance and was off once more. Shinji sighed and proceeded.

He found himself in another corridor with stones on the ceiling. Standing off to the side with a telescope was Sans. He waved Shinji over.

"i'm thinking about going into the telescope business." He said. "i would normally charge 50,000g to use this premium telescope, but since i know you, you can use it for free."

"Thanks, Sans." Shinji said.

He didn't know what he could find up in the ceiling, but he decided to be nice and take up San's offer. He pressed his eye to the eyepiece of the telescope, but all he saw was pink. He blinked and realized that the area around his eye was wet.

"hey, uh, you got something on your eye." Sans grinned. He pulled out a napkin and said, "here."

Shinji took it and wiped his eye. He blinked again when he saw that the white napkin was now stained pink. He looked at the telescope, then at Sans.

Pranked againâ€|

"not satisfied?" Sans asked. "i'll give you a full refund."

"But I neverâ€|oh."

"yeah, you're getting it now. oh, before i forget, there's something you need to know. there's someone looking for you."

"Undyne, I know."

"her too, but this certain someoneâ€|well, i think you should be friends with him."

"Him? Who is he?"

"didn't tell me his name, but you'll know him when you see him. honestly, i think befriending him would be the best thing for you to do in the long run."

Shinji handed the napkin back and said, "Thanks for the advice."

"anytime, pal. don't let undyne get you."

He nodded and went to the next room. He was surprised to see the Nice Cream Guy and his cart again, as well as a teardrop-shaped monster. The monster walked away with a Nice Cream in its hand. The Guy's ears perked up when he saw Shinji.

"Hey! It's you again!" He said. "I took your advice and moved my cart to somewhere slightly warmer. I got a few customers, but," his ears drooped, "business is still slow."

"I'm sorry," Shinji said, "but you're doing better here, aren't you?"

"I am, and fortunately, I've thought of a solution: punch cards! Each time you buy a Nice Cream, you get a punch card. Collect three punch cards and you get a free Nice Cream! That should bring in more customers and keep them coming!"

"Maybe. Can I have a Nice Cream?"

"Sure thing! You want soda flavor again?"

"Um, vanilla."

Shinji gave him 15G and he handed him a wrapped Nice Cream pop, as well as a little card with a hole in it. He felt a little sad when he read what was on it: "pleaseâ€|please come back". He unwrapped the wrapper and read what was inside it: "Love yourself! I love you!"

"Excuse me," Shinji said, "but do these wrappers say the same thing all the time?"

"No," the Nice Cream Guy shook his head, "there are several different encouraging messages you can get. Why, did you get a repeat wrapper?"

He nodded.

"Well, I think something might be trying to tell you something, you know? Have a nice day!"

Shinji nodded again and ate his Nice Cream as he walked away.

The next area had many patches of ground in the middle of the watery area, and all of them had bridges linking them, thankfully enough. He kept his guard up, but nothing came at him. He now realized that he had never found the source of the ringing from earlier. He pulled out his phone and tried calling Toriel again.

He yelped and dropped his Nice Cream when he heard the ring directly behind him.

He turned around and saw the white dog with the annoying grin. The ringing came from him, strangely enough. He walked up to the dropped Nice Cream and ate it all, including the stick. He then wagged his tail and trotted on ahead.

He ate the whole thing. Wait, could he have eaten Toriel's phone? I've heard of dogs eating strange things but is that thing even a dog?

Shinji remembered what Papyrus said and made a note to himself to better secure what little belongings he had. He continued on until saw another plaque. This one read: "The power to take their souls; this is the power that the humans feared."

The next room was a long corridor surrounded by water. He stopped when he saw what looked like a pale yellow tentacle sticking out of the water. He immediately thought that it was a squid monster that would drag him under once he got close. Another tentacle poked out, then a giant head that certainly did not belong to a squid.

It was a giant onion with a happy face.

"Hey there!" It spoke. "Noticed you were here! I'm Onionsan! Onionsan, y'hear!"

Shinji was startled by its sudden outburst. He said, "I-I'm Shinji."

"Did I startle you? Sorry! It's just that I haven't talked to anyone in a long time. Anyways, it's nice to meet you, Shinji! I can walk with you to the end of the room, if you like."

"Uh, sure."

He started to slowly walk down the room, with Onionsan walking (swimming?) beside him.

"So you're visiting Waterfall, huh? It's great here, huh? You love it, huh?"

"Y-yeah, it's nice." Shinji answered.

"Yeah! Me too! It's my Big Favorite, even though the water's getting so shallow here I have to sit down all the time, but"

"I'm so".

"B-but that's okay! It beats moving to the city and living in a crowded aquarium, like all my friends did!" It frowned. "And the aquarium's full a-anyway, so even if I wanted to, I"

"Your friends moved away"?

"That's okay, though! Y'hear?! Undyne's gonna fix everything, y'hear?! I'm gonna get out of here and live in the ocean, y'hear?!"

But nothing can live in the ocean

Shinji saw that they had reached the end of the room already. Onionsan noticed this as well and said, "Hey there we reached the end of the room. H-have a good time!"

Onionsan sank into the water. Shinji could tell that it really liked his company, and he actually wouldn't mind if it talked some more. He lowered his head and decided that he should move on.

He found himself in more caves with little waterfalls. Continuing straight, he saw more plaques. He once again read them to himself.

"_This power has no counter. Indeed, a human cannot take a monster's soul. When a monster dies, its soul disappears. An incredible power would be needed to take the soul of a living monster. There is only one exception: the soul of a special species of monster called a 'Boss Monster'. A Boss Monster's soul is strong enough to persist after death, if but for a few moments. A human could absorb this soul, but this has never happened, and now it never will."_

So, does that mean that Boss Monsters are stronger than normal monsters? I wouldn't be surprised if Undyne was one of them.

Past the hallway with the plaques was a stone statue of a monster. Water dripped onto it from a hole in the ceiling. Sitting next to it was a small gold fox with a red orb in its mouth. It looked eerily similar to the gold fox that was on Gyftrot, yet it was motionless. Shinji decided to take a closer look.

The fox lightly clenched its jaws and the orb squeaked. It narrowed its eyes and growled. Shinji backed away and nearly tripped over something. After regaining his balance, he looked to see what it was.

It was the Annoying Dog.

He approached the fox, which continued to growl. It stood up and ran off with the orb in its mouth. The dog chased after it, his annoying grin never fading from its face.

Oddâ€|

His phone rang and he answered it.

"Hello?"

"HEY AGAIN, SHINJI!" Papyrus said on the other end. "HAVE YOU SEEN THAT ANNOYING DOG YET?"

"Yeah, he was chasing after a fox."

"A FOX, YOU SAY? WAS THIS FOX GOLD, BY ANY CHANCE?"

"Yeah. Why?"

"THE DOGS OF THE ROYAL GUARD HAVE BEEN AFTER THAT THING SINCE IT SHOWED UP. DON'T KNOW WHEN IT SHOWED UP, THOUGHâ€|THE THING ABOUT THAT FOX ISâ€|IT ALWAYS THINKS IT'S SOMETHING OTHER THAN A FOX. IT'S BEEN A DOG, A CAT, A LOG, A RATâ€|IT'S EVEN BEEN A DOOR AT ONE POINT."

"Aâ€|door? Is it dangerous?"

"NO, BUT SINCE THE DOGS HAVE GONE CRAZY OVER IT, EVERYONE'S BEEN AFTER IT. KINDA LIKE THAT RARE PRIZE YOU MIGHT GET FROM DRINKING MTT COLA. WAITâ€|I HAVE A CAN OF MTT COLA RIGHT HERE!" There was a pause. "NOPE, NO PRIZE THIS TIME! I'M OFF TO BUY MORE! TALK TO YOU SOON, SHINJI!"

He hung up. Shinji decided not think too much about what happened earlier. He kept walking until he saw an umbrella stand next to a sign. The sign read: "Please take one."

Thinking that he might need it soon, he took an umbrella. Continuing onwards, he could see why the sign told him to take an umbrella: the ceiling was dripping with water. He opened it up and kept walking. Up ahead, he saw the Monster Kid, who was getting wet.

"Here." Shinji called out.

The Kid turned around and smiled when he saw Shinji, who moved the umbrella to make room for him. He ran and took cover under it.

"Thanks, yo!" He said.

"You're welcome."

They continued on together.

"Man, Undyne is so cool!" The Kid said. "She beats up bad guys and never loses!"

"What bad guys?" Shinji had to ask.

"Humans, duh! Boy, if I was a human, I would wet the bed every night knowing she was going to beat me up!" He laughed. "So, one time, we had a school project where we had to take care of a flower. The kingâ€|we had to call him Mr. Dreemurrâ€|volunteered to donate his

flowers. He ended up coming to school and teaching the class about responsibility and stuff. That got me thinking 'Yo! How cool would it be if Undyne came to school?! She would beat up all the teachers!'"

"Beat up the teachers? W-would she really do that?"

"â€|No, she's too cool to hurt an innocent person. Hey! Look!"

They had left the caves. In the distance was a large castle. The Monster Kid said, "The king's castle always looks cool from here, but I bet it's not as cool as where Undyne lives!"

The king's castleâ€|that's where I have to go if I want to leave. Looks pretty farâ€|can I make it?

Shinji clenched and unclenched his fist.

Iâ€|I have to.

Shinji and the Monster Kid found another umbrella holder once they were out of the dripping area. Shinji folded the umbrella and placed it back. When he tried to continue, he saw that the way was blocked by a tall ledge. He jumped up and grabbed onto the ledge. He tried to pull himself up, but found that he didn't have the arm strength to do so.

"Yo," the Kid said, "looks like you need help. Here, I'll get under you. Put your feet on my shoulders and I'll give you a boost."

"I might be too heavy." Shinji pointed out.

"Won't know until we try."

Shinji felt his feet touch the Kid's shoulders. He stood up, giving the boost Shinji needed. He pulled himself up the ledge. He turned around and reached his arms down to help the Kid up, but then realized that he couldn't do much since he didn't have arms.

"Man, you _are_ heavy!" The Kid said.

"Sorry. How am I supposed to help you up?"

"It's alright; I'll find another way, I always do!"

"T-thank you."

Shinji stood up and went on alone. He saw two more plaques, which he read to himself.

"The humans, afraid of our power, declared war on us. They attacked suddenly, and without mercy. In the end, it could hardly be called a war. United, the humans were too powerful, and us monsters, too weak. Not a single soul was taken, and countless monsters turned to dustâ€|" How long ago did this happen? Hundreds of years ago? Thousands?

Up ahead, he could see a wooden bridge. There were more waterfalls off to the side and one big pool of water down below. Shinji told himself not to look down when he started to make his way

across.

Blue spears suddenly shot up from below, just barely missing him.

He jumped back and looked around. He heard metal footsteps below him and he finally looked down. Underneath him was another bridge, and on it was Undyne, glaring up at him. He started running.

Fortunately for him, he was able to tell when the spears were about to come up. Blue spots would appear on the bridge before they shot up. He stopped when a wall of spears had appeared in front of him. This attack left a large gap in the bridge. He heard something heavy land on the bridge behind him and he turned around.

Standing a few feet away from him was Undyne. More spears appeared and landed between them, separating the section Shinji was on from the rest of the bridge. He screamed as both he and the broken section fell. The last thing he saw was Undyne glaring down at him.

9. 3-9

Evangelion****:** the series where everyone needs counseling.**

Undertale****:** the series where everyone needs love (not LOVE).**

****This fanfiction:** the story that needs encouragement from viewers like you.**

****Note:** This chapter has been redone due to future ideas not working out.**

* * *

><p>The boy with red eyes entered the Wishing Room. Last time, he never took the time to look at anything related to the monsters' cultural side. At the time, all that mattered to him was finding Shinji, no matter what, or who, got in his way. Of course, after what happened last timeâ€|<p>

"_Youâ€|you killed them?! Why?! They never did anything wrong! They were my friends, Kaworu! Iâ€|I hate you! I hate you!"_

It had hurt them to hear those words directed at him, so he resolved not to kill any monsters, even if they did try to stop him for whatever reason.

Passing through Snowdin, he could see that monsters were not unlike the Lilin. Seeing this made him curious about monsters in general. They are neither Angels nor Lilin, yet they seem so much like the latter. Now, looking around in the Wishing Room, he could see yet another similarity between the two.

They both have desires in their hearts. Wishesâ€|I never thought I would have one, butâ€|

* * *

><p>"It sounds like it came from over hereâ€|Oh! You've fallen down, haven't you? Are you okay? Hereâ€|what's your name? Chara? That's a nice name. My name isâ€|"

Shinji woke up and saw a familiar floor: yellow flowers. He sat up and saw that he had landed on a patch of flowers. He saw that he was at the bottom of the pool, and that he was completely surrounded by piles of garbage. Undyne was nowhere to be seen.

Relieved to be unharmed and out of danger, he stood up and started to make his way past the garbage. He moved by stepping on the garbage and pieces of the broken bridge, but he had to step into the water eventually. He found that the pool reached just above his ankles, and that most of the water was pouring down over the edge.

Looking at the garbage, he saw some familiar looking things: a bicycle, brand name food bags, a cooler, and even an anime DVD. There was also a dummy standing off to the side with cotton sticking out of a few spots. Up ahead, there was a door leading out. He was about to leave when something jumped and landed in front of him.

It was the dummy, though it was now glaring and literally red with anger.

"You!" It said. "You think you can run away from me?!"

"Run away?" Shinji asked back. "I didn't even think you couldâ€!"

"Talk? Because I'm a dummy?! I am a ghost that lives inside this dummy. My cousin used to live in a dummy, too, until _you _came along! Youâ€|! Youâ€|shucks! You were really boring! They got annoyed and flew away like any self-respecting spectre."

"I-I didn't know what to say to it!"

"Didn't know what to say to it?! You're more of a dummy that they were! (Wait, would that be considered a compliment?) Well then. Well then! WELL THEN! Boring people are crumbs sticking to the face of this world. Human! I'll wipe you away with the dainty handkerchief of vengeance!"

"I don't want to fight you!"

"You don't? TOO BAD! Even if you did, you can't hurt me! Dummies! Get out here and attack this human!"

Many tiny little dummies appeared around Shinji and fired white spheres at him. He picked a direction to run and jumped over the attacks. Some of them hit the Mad Dummy and he recoiled in pain.

"Ow!" He howled. "You dummies! Watch where you're aiming your magic attacks!"

Shinji stared at it.

Magic? So he'll stop if I can get them to keep hitting him?

"Hey! You!" It yelled at Shinji. "Forget I said anything about magic!"

Dummies! Attack again, and don't hit me this time!"

The mini-dummies fired more attacks.

"I'll defeat you and take your soul! I'll cross the barrier, I'll stand in the window of a fancy store, THEN EVERYTHING I WANT WILL BE MINE!"

Shinji kept dodging and more attacks hit the Mad Dummy. It started to dance around in an attempt to avoid its own attacks. Meanwhile, the mini-dummies never stopped attacking.

"Foolish. Foolish! FOOLISH! Pitiful. Pitiful! PITI! OW!" It stopped moving. "Hey guys!"

The mini-dummies stopped attacking.

"Dummies. Dummies! DUMMIES! Remember how I said not to shoot at me? Well! you're all failures! You're fired!"

They cast their eyes downwards and vanished.

Is it over?

As if reading his mind, the Mad Dummy laughed and said, "Don't think this is over yet, human! Now you'll see my true power: relying on dummies that aren't garbage! DUMMY BOTS! MAGIC MISSILE!"

Mechanized mini-dummies appeared and fired missiles at Shinji. He dodged, but found that the missiles followed him. He ran in circles until they veered off course, hitting the Mad Dummy.

"DUMMY BOTS! TRY AGAIN!"

They fired more missiles. Shinji kept running out of the way until they hit the dummy again.

"DUMMY BOTS! You're awful?! That's it! FINAL ATTACK!"

Several of them propelled themselves at Shinji while the rest fired more missiles. It was hard dodging two attacks at once, and one of the bots knocked him down face first into the water. However, that moved just happened to save Shinji, for instead of hitting him, the missiles flew over him and hit the Mad Dummy once more.

"Awful. Awful! AWFUL!" It shouted. "All of you, get out of my sight!"

The mechanical mini-dummies vanished.

"I DON'T NEED FRIENDS! I HAVE KNIVES!"

A knife suddenly appeared in the air and flew at him. Shinji ran off to the side, successfully dodging the knife. The Mad Dummy narrowed its eyes.

"I'm! out of knives! BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU CAN'T HURT ME AND I CAN'T HURT YOU! We'll be stuck like this forever!"

"Please," Shinji said, "just let me pass and you won't have to see me

again."

"Never. Never! NEVER!"

The Mad Dummy laughed maniacally. From above it, white droplets appeared and fell on it. It cringed and shouted, "What the heck is this?! Acid rain?! Oh FORGET IT! I'm outta here!"

It floated away. Shinji looked up and saw a familiar figure drift down to his level. His face lit up and he said, "Napstablook!"

"â€|Oh, hey Shinji." The ghost said. "â€|Sorry, I interrupted you, didn't I? As soon as I came over, your friend immediately left...it looked like you two were having funâ€|"

"No, he attacked me and you saved me. Thank you, Napstablook."

"Iâ€|saved you? Wowâ€|nobody's ever thanked me beforeâ€|Iâ€|I'm heading home now. It's just up ahead. You can come with meâ€|or notâ€|no pressureâ€|just offeringâ€|"

"Sure."

"â€|Really? Okayâ€|follow me."

Shinji followed Napstablook through the doorway. They only had to cross through a single room before they reached two oddly shaped houses. Napstablook phased through the door of the left house. Shinji stopped in front of the door, wondering if he should be polite and knock anyways.

"â€|You can come inâ€|" He heard Napstablook say from the inside.

Shinji opened the door and entered the house. The inside looked like it was falling apart, with cracks on the walls and stains on the ceiling. There were only three things present: a refrigerator, a TV, and an old model computer.

"It's not much," Napstablook said, "but make yourself at home. Ohâ€|you're soakedâ€|"

Shinji looked himself over and saw that he was indeed soaked from when that one dummy bot knocked him down into the water. His clothes were dripping and forming a puddle underneath him. He quickly said, "Sorry! Iâ€|!"

"It's alrightâ€|I'll get that laterâ€|umâ€|you want to get out of those? You'll get sick if you keep wearing themâ€|"

"Huh? But I don't have any other clothes to wear."

"I have a dryer at the back."

"You have a dryer? But aren't youâ€|."

"A ghostâ€|yeahâ€|I don't wear clothes, butâ€|I get in it whenever I get wet."

"Youâ€¦get in the dryer?"

"Yesâ€¦um, you'll have to walk aroundâ€¦"

"But what if your neighbor sees me?"

"He'sâ€¦not hereâ€¦but, I'll find somethingâ€¦I'll be backâ€¦"

Napstablook left through the still open door. Two minutes passed before he came back with a long piece of pink fabric with stars on it. He set it in front of Shinji and said, "â€¦hereâ€¦my cousin left this out back when he got better curtainsâ€¦sorry I couldn't find anything betterâ€¦"

"It's alright." He closed the door. "Umâ€¦can youâ€¦?"

"Ohâ€¦sorryâ€¦"

Napstablook turned around, giving Shinji the privacy he needed. He quickly stripped himself of his clothing and wrapped the curtain around him. He felt silly wearing it, but it was better than wearing wet clothes. He scooped up the wet clothes and went outside and around to the back.

There was indeed a dryer, as well as some trash. He took his things out of his pockets before putting the clothes in. He quickly went back into the house before anyone could see him. Napstablook was in front of his computer with a set of headphones on his head. He looked at his cellphone and SDAT and saw that they were undamaged by the water.

"You like listening to music?" Shinji asked.

"Yesâ€¦" Napstablook said. "I also make CDsâ€¦want to listen to one?"

"Yeah, I like listening to music, too." He showed him his SDAT.

"That plays music? But it's so small..."

"Heyâ€¦why don't we listen to each other's music?"

"â€¦Okayâ€¦"

Napstablook removed his headphones and put on the earbuds of the SDAT. Shinji put on the headphones. Napstablook moved the mouse and clicked on a music file. Shinji in turn turned on his SDAT and played track 25.

The music that Shinji heard was a trumpet playing a rather spooky tune. The music then turned electronic, and the spookiness intensified. The last track that played contained a series of "oooh"s. He looked at Napstablook, who was now listening to track 26.

"This is spooky music." Shinji noted.

"â€|Thanksâ€|" He said. "Your music's good too, Shinji."

Shinji removed the headphones, realizing that several minutes had passed. He said, "I should check on the clothes."

He went back out and stopped the dryer. He checked his clothes and saw that they were still a little damp. He thought that this would be good enough and took them out. He went back inside and changed back into them.

"Thanks for letting me use your dryer, Napstablook." He told the ghost.

He removed the earbuds and said, "Ohâ€|are you leaving already?"

Shinji nodded as he pocketed the SDAT. "Thanks again."

"â€|You're welcomeâ€|andâ€|thanks for visitingâ€|"

Shinji gave a small smile before he left. He was about to go to the next room when he heard someone singing behind him. He turned around and saw a fish monster hiding behind the second house. She sang a few notes, but they sounded off key. She turned her head and made a small noise when she saw Shinji looking at her. She hid behind a garbage can.

"I-it's alright," Shinji tried to reassure her, "I won't hurt you."

She poked her head out.

"Umâ€|my name is Shinji. What's yours?"

"Sh-Sh-Shyrenâ€|" She softly said.

"You didn't have to stop singing."

"Iâ€|n-noâ€|"

She ducked back behind the garbage can.

"What's wrong?"

"Iâ€|c-can'tâ€|"

She's too shyâ€|

"Hmmâ€|"

"Hmâ€|?" She poked her head out and hummed.

Seeing that he might be getting somewhere, Shinji hummed a tune. Shyren was quick to pick up the tune and joined in. The next thing they knew, several monsters had gathered to listen. While Shinji kept humming, Shyren's humming turned into singing.

_Shyren's not badâ€|and all these monsters came to listen to

us._

Shyren glanced around and stopped singing once she noticed that everyone's attention was on her. She was about to hide again when they all burst into applause. She blinked, then smiled.

"Iâ€|th-thank youâ€|" She blushed.

The applause slowly died down. Shinji looked at the crowd that had gathered. He recognized Napstablook and Aaron, but he also saw a yellow bird, a few snails, andâ€".

Huh?

As the crowd dispersed, he noticed that there was someone looking at him; not a monster, but a human. It was a boy around his age with short gray hair and red eyes. What surprised him further was that he was wearing a dark purple plugsuit, showing that he was an Eva pilot. The boy smiled and approached him.

"I've found you, Shinji Ikari."

10. 3-10

**Evangelion**: the anime where the girls (and one boy) fall for the main lead.**

**Undertale**: the game that has a dating minigame.**

This fanfiction: the story that will have romantic tension.

* * *

><p>Shinji felt like he had seen this boy before. He had a million questions for him, but he started with the one that first came to mind.<p>

"Do I know you?" He asked.

"Ah, I haven't introduced myself." The boy said. "I'm Kaworu Nagisa, the Fifth Child."

"So you _are_ an Eva pilot. How did you find me? Is Nerv looking for me? Is anyone worried? What about the Angel attacks?"

"One at a time, Shinji. Nerv is looking everywhere for you, and I'm sure people are worried about you. Nerv also had to call in two more Children to deal with the Angels. They seem to have things under control, but I don't know how long that will last. As for how I found you, let's say I had a feeling on where to look."

"You were looking for me? But we've never even met before. Why would you look for me?"

"I've heard how you first went missing, Shinji. You ran away because you didn't want to pilot the Eva. You felt that it was a responsibility you couldn't handle. I looked for you because you have my deepest sympathies."

How does he know that? I didn't write that in the note I left for Misato.

Shinji lowered his head and muttered, "Thank youâ€|but now we both have to get out of here."

"Then let's go together, Shinji."

He nodded and they departed.

He really does seem familiarâ€|

"Umâ€|I want to know more about you, Nagisa."

"'Kaworu' is fine." He said. "I like music and playing piano, and I'm always interested in learning new things."

"I like music, too. Um, can I ask you something?"

"Of course."

"Why do you pilot the Eva?"

"I do it because I believe that there are certain aspects of humanity that are worth preserving."

"Like what?"

"Like the things that the Liâ€|that humans can create: music, literature, and art. There's also the good things that they can experience, like love."

"Love?"

"You sound doubtful, Shinji."

Shinji turned his head away. "It's just thatâ€|I know there's love, butâ€|"

I've never been loved.

"It's there, and everyone, even you, can experience it."

They saw a doorway and entered through it. The room was small and filled with junk. There was also an old turtle wearing an archaeologist's outfit.

"Whoa there!" He said with surprise. "I never thought I would see two humans at once down here! I'm Gerson, and I got some neat junk for sale, if you're interested."

"Um," Shinji glanced at the junk, "no thank you."

"Actually," Kaworu spoke, "there are some things I want to ask you."

"Sure! What do you want to know?"

"Your clothes indicate that you've had experience with excavation and

history. Can you tell me who wrote the history plaques in this area?"

"Oh, those? They were written by the first monsters that came here. I should know, I was one of them! I was even there during the War!"

"You were in the war?" Shinji asked. "How long ago did it take place?"

"Hoo boy! Thousands of years, I think? I've lost count long ago."

Shinji's eyes widened. "You're thousands of years old?"

Gerson cackled. "Yep! Monsters can live a pretty long time! Heck, I'm older than King Fluffybuns himself and I'm not kicking the bucket anytime soon!"

"Kingâ€¦Fluffybuns?"

"Asgore. Funny story behind that, but I can't quite remember it right now."

Shinji now noticed something familiar on the wall. It was the symbol from the ruins. He pointed to it and said, "I've seen that symbol before. What is it?"

"That?" Gerson said. "That's the Delta Rune, the emblem of our kingdom! Great name, huh?" He laughed. "King Fluffybuns was never good at naming things."

"All emblems have meaning." Kaworu noted. "What does that one symbolize?"

"Symbolize? That thing has been around since before those plaques were written. It's all up to speculation, really. I know that those triangles represent monsters, but some monsters think that the winged circle at the top represents the angel from prophecy."

"Angel?" Shinji tensed up.

"Yeah. Legend has it that an 'angel' who has seen the surface will descend from above and bring us freedom. Of course, nowadays monsters are thinking that it might be an 'Angel of Death', bringing us 'freedom' from this mortal coil. Personally, I think that circle just looks neat."

Does that mean one of the Angels is going to destroy this place? I hope notâ€¦|

"Thank you for the information." Kaworu said.

"No problem."

The two boys left the room. The next area was slightly dark, with only glowing mushrooms and crystals lighting the place.

Now that I think about it, Toriel had that symbol on her robes, tooâ€¦|waitâ€¦|

"Did you meet Toriel?" Shinji asked his new companion.

"I did." Kaworu said. "We talked some and she mentioned you. She led me to the exit of the Ruins when I told her that I was looking for you. She misses you, Shinji."

"I know. If I didn't have to pilot the Eva, then I would have stayed with her. She"

"She cares about you. You are fortunate to have met someone like her."

"I am. I just wish father was more like her."

Why am I telling him this?

"Shinji, if I could"

"huMans!" Someone shouted.

Standing in the distance was a little cat with black hair and two sets of ears. Once it shouted, more of them appeared. They all grinned and started vibrating.

"so CUTE!"

Before they could consider running, they had all tackled them to the ground. Some petted them, some nuzzled them, and all were talking at once. Shinji felt like he was being smothered with fur and cuteness.

"hOI! im temmie!"

"dis is Temmiy!"

"CuuuUUUte! i wanna take dem hOME with TemMIe!"

"petpetpetpet the hUmans!"

"they not alergic to teMs! Yay!"

"**too much cUte! i wanna put dem on a boat and sHIp dem!**"

The last one that spoke was actually the gold fox, which was petting Kaworu's hair with its paw. He looked at Shinji and said, "These monsters are quite affectionate."

"I know, but," he sat up and raised his voice, "could you please get off of us?!"

"PEt!"

"Dey so cuTE!"

"cuUuuute! Fsd fsdfs fsdfsdfs!"

"Now, what's got all you Temmies so excited?" A familiar voice asked.

It was Aaron. All the Temmies stopped what they were doing and stared at him. He flexed his muscles.

"nOo! musclesâ€|nOT cutE!"

"nooOeeWWww!"

"rUn temMies!"

They all fled. The boys stood up and found that they were covered in fur. As they brushed themselves off, Shinji looked at Aaron and asked, "What did you do to make them run?"

"Temmies just don't like muscles." Wink. "Glad I could help out." Wink. He noticed Kaworu and said, "Oh, another friend?" Wink.

"I am," he confirmed, "but can I ask why you're winking so much? Are you implying something that I'm not getting?"

"I'm not implying anything." Wink.

"He just does thatâ€|I think." Shinji said. He said to Aaron, "Thanks for chasing off thoseâ€|them."

"Anytime." Wink.

Aaron left. Kaworu looked at Shinji and lightly touched his hair with his fingers. Shinji jumped back in surprise. Kaworu withdrew his hand and he saw that he had a few Temmie hairs in his pinched fingers.

"You had fur in your hair." He explained.

"O-oh, thanks." "Uh, youâ€|have some, too."

Shinji slowly reached out and pulled out a piece of gold hair off of his head. Kaworu smiled and said, "Thank you, Shinji."

"Y-yeah."

He suddenly frowned and whispered, "Behind you."

Shinji turned around. Sliding up to them was one of the jello monsters that he saw in the Ruins. It stopped and made squelching noises.

"Hello again." Shinji told it.

It quivered, then suddenly stretched upwards several feet until it towered over them. It looked at them and roared. Shinji screamed and ran, with Kaworu running to catch up with him.

They stopped after a minute and turned around to see if the monster was chasing them. Shinji sighed with relief when he saw that they weren't being pursued. He muttered, "That was scary."

"I don't think it wanted to attack us." Kaworu said.

"How do you know that?"

"I didn't sense any hostility."

Shinji lowered his head. "Now I feel bad for running."

They heard the sound of metal footsteps approach them. They both turned around and saw Undyne. She clenched another spear in her hand.

"Another one." She spoke. "It's bad enough having one running aroundâ€|no, that's actually good. Only one more soul is needed before King Asgore Dreemurr can become a god. With that power, the barrier will finally be broken. With another soul, he will become stronger and he can finally take the surface back from humanityâ€|and give them back the pain and suffering we have endured. Now, both of you, give up your souls or I'll tear them from your bodies!"

"Shinji," Kaworu told him, "you go on ahead. I'll stop her."

"Kaworu, you can't!" Shinji said. "She'll kill you!"

"Don't worry about me, Shinji, Iâ€|."

"Undyne!"

The Monster Kid appeared and ran up to her. He said excitedly, "Wow, I finally get to see you fight! Butâ€|who are you fighting?"

Undyne groaned and grabbed the Kid by the ear. She dragged him away, saying, "Kid, let me tell you somethingâ€|"

"Waitâ€|you're not going to tell my parents about this, are you?!"

"Now's our chance." Shinji said.

Kaworu nodded and they left.

The next room was brighter and slightly flooded. Echo Flowers grew everywhere. There was a single plaque on the wall. Shinji read it aloud.

"'However, there is a prophecy: the Angel, the One who has seen the Surfaceâ€|they will return, and the underground will go empty.' Kaworu, do you think it's talking about the Angels we're fighting right now?"

"I don't think so." He said. "Before Second Impact happened, people believed that angels were messengers from God. Now, no one thinks of them that way anymore."

"Messengers from Godâ€|if they are the same Angels, then that's another reason we have to go back: to save the monsters."

"Then let's continue on."

They left the flooded room and came across a narrow bridge. Below them was a long drop. They slowly started to make their way across.

"Yo." A familiar voice said from behind them.

They turned around and saw the Monster Kid. Shinji immediately asked, "Are you alright? Undyne didn't do anything to you, did she?"

"Nah, we only talked, butâ€|you two are humans, right?"

Shinji frowned and nodded.

"Man, I knew it! Butâ€|that means we're enemies. Uh, can you say something mean so I can hate you?"

"But we're not enemies."

"Undyne says that all humans are enemies, and she can't be wrong."

"Not all of them are bad." Kaworu said. "You're talking to one of the good ones right now."

He placed a hand on Shinji's shoulder. For some reason he couldn't explain, he didn't shrug it off. He actually didn't mind Kaworu's close presence, and it confused him.

Is it because he feels familiar?

"Wellâ€|I don't want to be enemies either. Manâ€|I should just go home."

The Monster Kid turned around to leave when he suddenly slipped and fell. His head hung over the edge of the bridge, and the rest of him threatened to fall off. At the same time, Undyne appeared again.

Shinji looked at her, then at the Monster Kid, and decided that he needed to save him. He ran to his side, grabbed his shoulders, and pulled him back up. The kid shakily said, "Th-thanks."

Undyne walked up to them. The Monster Kid stood up and faced her, saying, "D-dudeâ€|if you want to hurt themâ€|you have to get through me firstâ€|"

"Don't do this." Shinji told him.

Undyne clenched her fist and took a hesitant step back. She then turned around and left. Shinji stared and said, "Sheâ€|she just left?"

The Monster Kid looked at them and said, "Yo, you really saved my skin. I guess we have to settle for being friends."

"I'd like that."

"Yeahâ€|I _really_ should get home though. My parents must be worried sick about me! Later!"

He left without tripping this time. Kaworu walked up to Shinji and said, "You didn't run when she appeared."

"I couldn't just leave him."

He's rightâ€|I didn't run away.

"And it looks like you've made a friend. How does it feel, having friends?"

"â€|It feels nice." He glanced towards where Undyne once was and said, "We should go before she comes back."

"Yes. We're almost out of Waterfall."

_He seems so sure about thatâ€| _

11. 3-11

**Evangelion****: smells like LCL.**

**Undertale****: smells like dogs.**

This fanfiction: smells like NazoFox2501.

* * *

><p>The room they were in now was dry and cavernous. The boys could hear the wind howling, and it gave Shinji goosebumps. They saw a hole in a rocky cliff leading out and approached it. However, they stopped when a shadow fell on them. They looked up.<p>

Standing on top of the cliff was Undyne.

"Seven." She said. "Seven human souls, and King Asgore will become a god. Six. That's how many we have collected thus far. Through the seventh and final soul, this world will be transformed. First, however, as is customary for those who make it this far, I shall tell you the tragic tale of our people. It all started long agoâ€|"

"We know." Kaworu interrupted. "We've read the plaques."

There was a moment of silence.

"Yeahâ€|you know what? SCREW IT!"

Undyne removed her helmet and threw it off to the side. Her face was blue and had fins off to the side. She also had an eyepatch over her left eye. She glared at Shinji and Kaworu.

"You obviously know the story already," she yelled, "so why should I tell it to you when you're about to die?! You two are standing in the way of everyone's hopes and dreams!" She summoned a spear and pointed it at Shinji. "YOU! I've heard all about you! You're a coward that doesn't want to fight, so you try to make friends with everyone instead! 'Ooh! I'm making such a difference by hugging random strangers!' You know that everyone would be better off if you were dead!"

Shinji's eyes widened at what she had just said. His voice wavered as he said, "Y-yesâ€|I am a coward, but that's n-notâ€|"

Kaworu glared at Undyne and stepped forward. He coldly said, "You should not have said that."

"And you," she pointed the spear at him, "I don't know what you're trying to pull by acting so cool and all that, but it's pissing me off! Right now, I can feel everyone's hearts pounding together! Everyone's been waiting their whole lives for this moment! Now, no more running! Let's end this once and for all!"

She jumped down and swung her spear at them. Shinji and Kaworu backed away, even though the attack wasn't that close to them. They suddenly froze in place. Shinji looked down and saw that his soul was green, as was his friend's. A second spear appeared in Undyne's spare hand and she tossed both of them at them, which they caught. Another spear appeared in her hand.

"As long as you're green," she explained, "you can't run away! You must now fight me head on!"

Many arrow shaped spears surrounded them and fired. Kaworu turned his body and used the spear he got to deflect the attacks. Shinji, however, gave in to the flight part of his instinct and tried to duck. However, he was unable to do that and he was hit by several spears. He winced in pain and gritted his teeth.

"Idiot!" Undyne shouted at Shinji. "You're supposed to block my attacks with my spear! At least your friend knows what he's doing!"

"_Coward! Stop running away!_"

DÃ©jÃ vu hit him again. The mental image he got this time was himself running away from an angry Undyne. He really felt like he had done this before.

Kaworu gripped the spear and ran forward. He tried to stab Undyne, but she deflected the attack with her own spear. Shinji shouted, "Kaworu! What are you doing?!"

"There's no way around it, Shinji." He said without looking at him. "She's not going to back down."

"This one actually gets it." Undyne said. "Don't think you can talk your way out of this fight!"

More small spears appeared. This time, Shinji was able to use his spear to block them. Meanwhile, Kaworu and Undyne kept trying to hit each other.

I can't fight and I can't run, yet I can't let ourselves be killed. What am I supposed to do?

Undyne jumped into the air and waved her spear. Several large spears appeared and launched themselves at them. They both dodged out of the way, and Shinji realized what he just did. He looked at their souls and saw that they were red again.

"Run, Kaworu!" He shouted.

With the spear still in his hand, he bolted through the

opening.

"Shinji!" Kaworu called after him.

"Coward!" Undyne shouted. "Stop running away!"

She landed on the ground and ran after him, with Kaworu chasing after her.

Shinji didn't have to turn his head to know that Undyne was after him. Up ahead, he could see an electric sign that showed the message "Welcome to Hotland" He stumbled and fell on his face. He turned around and saw that Undyne had caught up to him. She waved her spear and his soul was green again.

"Fight me, damn it!" She glared.

More little spears appeared and fired. Shinji was able to deflect most of them, but one got him from behind. Undyne heard footsteps and turned around. She managed to block Kaworu's attack just before his spear struck her. She pushed him back.

"Heh." She said. "Not bad! You actually want to fight, so I won't turn you green again, for now."

Shinji stood up, battered from Undyne's attacks. More spears fired and came at him in different directions. He wildly turned in different directions to block them, but a few still managed to get him. He dropped back down and saw that his heart was red again. A large spear flew at him.

Kaworu jumped in front of him.

"Kaworu!"

The phone suddenly rang. The spear abruptly stopped in midair a foot away from Kaworu's soul. Nothing happened for a few seconds.

"Well?!" Undyne said. "Aren't you going to answer that?!"

"You're trying to kill us and you want me to answer my phone?!" Shinji shouted.

"I can wait a few minutes."

Shinji and Kaworu blinked. Shinji pulled out his phone and answered it.

"Hello?"

"SHINJI! WHAT'S UP?!"

"Papyrus?"

"THE ONE AND ONLY! SO, I WAS THINKINGâ€¦ YOU, ME, AND UNDYNE SHOULD HANG OUT SOME TIME! I THINK YOU TWO WOULD MAKE GREAT PALS!"

"Papyrus, she's trying to kill me right now!"

"OHâ€¦Iâ€¦WAS AFRAID THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. WELL, IN THAT CASE, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE! FIRST, IF SHE TURNS YOUR SOUL GREEN AND GIVES YOU A SPEAR, THAT MEANS SHE WANTS YOU TO BLOCK ANY SPEARS SHE SENDS YOUR WAY!"

"I know that already!"

"REALLY? THEN THE ONLY OTHER THING I CAN TELL YOUâ€¦IS TO RUN! NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO BEAT UNDYNE EXECPT FOR KING ASGORE!"

"I'm already running from her!"

"WELL, IF YOU DO MAKE IT OUT ALIVE, WHICH I'M SURE YOU WILL, I'LL TALK TO HER. I REALLY THINK YOU TWO WOULD BE GREAT FRIENDS IF YOU GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER."

"Iâ€¦I don't know about that."

"I'LL LET GO BACK TO RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE NOW. GOOD LUCK!"

Papyrus hung up. Shinji pocketed his phone and stared at Undyne. She tapped her foot impatiently and asked, "Done?!"

Shinji looked at the spear hanging in midair and scooted away from it. Kaworu mimicked this action. Shinji stood up and said, "Y-yeah."

He ran again.

"Are you kidding me?!" She shouted.

She threw the spear at him. Shinji turned his head just in time to see Kaworu take the blow for him. However, instead of hitting him, a familiar looking force field appeared around him and deflected the attack. He stopped and stared.

An AT Field?!

"Kaworu?!" Shinji asked.

"I'll tell you later," he said, "but for now, keep running."

"But I can't leave you behind!"

"I'll catch up, now go."

"No! I won't let you do this!"

Shinji grabbed Kaworu's wrist and pulled.

"We can both run!"

Kaworu blinked, then nodded and they ran together.

The new area they were in was hot. There were tall, rocky ledges and a lake of lava below. There was a bridge, a water cooler, and a sentry booth, which was occupied by Sans. They ran across the bridge. Behind them, they could hear Undyne yelling at Sans.

"What are you doing?!" She said. "You're supposed to stop them, you lazybones!"

"sorry undyne," he said, "but i'm on my break."

She screamed in frustration and went after the boys again. However, just as she reached the end of the bridge, she slowed down and eventually stopped. They turned around and stared at her.

"Armorâ€¦soâ€¦hotâ€¦" She panted. "Butâ€¦I can't give upâ€¦"

She collapsed. Shinji dropped the spear he was carrying and said, "She stopped."

"The heat of this place has gotten to her." Kaworu said. "Now we have the advantage."

He approached Undyne.

"Kaworu? What are you doing?"

"If I don't put an end to her now, she'll just come after us again."

He stopped in front of her and raised his spear.

"No!"

Shinji ran up to him and yanked the spear out of his hands. He threw it into the lava below and said, "You can't kill her!"

Kaworu stared at him with in disbelief. "Shinji, she wants you dead."

"I-I know, but she has friends, like Papyrus! If you kill her, they'll be upset andâ€¦and I also want her to know that not all humans are bad!" He ran up to the water cooler and got a cup of water. He went up to her and continued, "Andâ€¦I'm tired of everyone wanting to fight."

He held the cup in front of Undyne. She blinked in surprise, but took the cup anyways. Instead of drinking it, she splashed the water on her face. She crushed the cup in her hand and stood up.

"Youâ€¦" She said slowly. "You're helping me out? Iâ€¦I don'tâ€¦I don't get it!"

She shook her head and stormed off. Kaworu said, "You never cease to surprise me, Shinji."

"Iâ€¦I don't want to fight anyone." He said tiredly.

"Not even the Angels?"

"You can't reason with Angels. I fight them because they tell me to andâ€¦wait, Kaworu, you had an AT Field. How? I thought only the Angels and Evas had them."

Kaworu lowered his head and said, "I was hoping you didn't have to

find out, butâ€¦take a good look at my soul."

Shinji realized that he never did look at Kaworu's soul, other than the time it turned green. It was white and glistened with the colors of a rainbow. He said, "My body is that of the Lilin, but my soul is not. You said that you can't reason with Angels, so does that mean that you can no longer reason with me?"

Shinji gaped. "Youâ€¦you're an Angel? Thenâ€¦what you said about being a pilotâ€¦that was a lie?" He started to panic. "Did you come here to kill me!? Because I pilot the Eva!?"

"I would never intentionally harm you in any way, Shinji, and I've never lied to you. All I want is for you to be happy."

"But why!? The rest of you don't seem to care for anything!"

"The Angels attack for a reason, and I used to have that same reason, but being one of the Lilin, being among them, has shown me many things that are worth preserving."

"Like love?"

"Like love."

Shinji paused to take everything in before asking, "How can I trust you?"

Wait, why am I saying that?! He just saved my life!

He lowered his head. "I'm sorry."

"You have nothing to apologize for, Shinji. I understand your distrust. What do you want me to do to show you that I mean you no harm?"

"Don't hide anything from me anymore, please"

"I won't. I will tell you anything and everything you want to know."

"The Angelsâ€¦why are they attacking?"

"To start Third Impact," Kaworu said grimly, "the extinction of the Lilin, and the chance for the Angels to claim this world. That is why everyone wants you to pilot the Eva: to prevent Third Impact from happening."

"Third Impact? They want me to save the world? Iâ€¦this is too much! I don't want everyone to depend on me!"

"You're not alone, Shinji." Kaworu lightly took his hand. "There are other pilots who share the same burden, and if anything should happen, I will take that burden from you."

"Even though you're an Angel?"

"That's right."

"Kaworuâ€¦" Shinji had never felt this much support before. Looking

at him, he could not believe that he was an Angel. He felt his heart swelling and a single tear sneaked out of his eye.

__He's so humanâ€|more human than father ever was.__

He sniffled and said, "Thank you."

"Are you ready to go?"

He nodded and they were on their way again.

The path they were on was pretty straight, with the only side path being blocked by two monsters in armor. Shinji had expected them to stop them, but all they did was turn their heads to look at them. They remained where they were even after they had left. Up ahead was a large building with a sign that read: "Lab". The doors slid open and they went inside.

The first thing they felt was the AC, which was really welcoming right now. The room was dim and no one seemed to be around. There was a desk with a computer and piles of papers and empty ramen cups. Next to it was a large TVâ€|with them on the screen.

Shinji looked around and now saw that there was a camera looking at them.

"We're being watched." He noted.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there were cameras everywhere else." Kaworu said.

A nearby door opened and a monster stepped out. It looked like a short, yellow reptile wearing glasses and a lab coat. She noticed the boys and gasped.

"Oh my god." She said. "I didn't expect to see you two so soon! I haven't showered, I'm barely dressed, everything's all messy, andâ€|ummâ€|"

"You're the one watching us?" Shinji asked.

"Why?"

"Ohâ€|thatâ€|ummâ€|" She fidgeted. "L-let me introduce myself first. I'm Dr. Alphys, Asgore's royal scientist! B-but ahhh, I'm not one of the 'bad guys'! I-I've been watching your adventure since you left the Ruins a-and I was supposed to stop you, but I saw how you were making friends a-and I started rooting for you, especially you, Shinji, since you really remind me of myseâ€|a-ah, I mean and I want to help you now!"

"You can help us?" Kaworu asked. "How?"

"Using my knowledge, I can guide you out of Hotland, and I know a way to Asgore's castle!" She fidgeted again and said in a small voice, "Uhâ€|actually, there's just one tiny issue."

"Issue?" Shinji said.

"Y-you see, a long time ago, I made a robot named Mettaton. Originally, I built him to be an entertainment robot, uh, you know,

like a robotic TV star or something. A-anyway, recently I decided to make him more useful. You know, just some small practical adjustments like anti-antihuman combat features?"

"You built a robot to kill us?"

"O-of course, when I saw you coming, I immediately decided to remove those features! Unfortunately, I might have made a teensy mistake while doing so and uh-now he's an unstoppable killing machine with a thirst for human blood?" Alphys laughed nervously.

"Then we just have to make sure we don't run into him." Kaworu said.

Something banged from inside the wall.

"I may have spoken too soon."

Shinji stammered, "I-Is that?"

"Oh no!" Alphys's face went pale.

The banging continued until something busted through. Pieces of the wall scattered and dust filled the room. Just as the dust settled, something rolled in through the newly formed hole and made its presence known.

"OHHHHH YES!"

End
file.